

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On August 20th. at Foochow, the wife of
JAMES HELBLING. of a daughter. [1274

DEATHS.

At the Matilda Hospital at 4.30 yesterday after-
noon, NONA EMILY LANGLEY, widow of PERCY
LANGLEY. [1272

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 12th August
arrived per s.s. *Lutzow* on Wednesday the 9th
inst.

The French Mail of the 14th ultimo arrived
per s.s. *Ville de la Ciotat* on the 13th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The native city of Hankow now has electric
light. Current was supplied on the 29th ult.
for 1,800 lights, and applications for the in-
stallation of 2,000 additional lights had been
received.

All opium divans at Hankow were ordered to
be closed by the 5th inst.

With reference to recently current rumours
in Shanghai, it is stated that legal proceed-
ings will shortly be instituted in the matter
of the charges that have been publicly made
against his Honour Judge Wilfley.

The contract for beef for the German Go-
vernment in Tsingtau, for the ensuing twelve
months, has been awarded to the North Queens-
land Meat Export Co., Ltd, Townsville. These
packers were the successful tenderers last
year.

A notice has been issued warning mariners
that floating mines are again making their
appearance near Vladivostok and in Amur
and Ussuri Bays. There is great apprehension
that these mines may still retain their explosive
element.

It is reported from Peking that the conces-
sion for the Canton-Macao Railway has been
cancelled by the Chinese Government with the
sanction of the Portuguese Minister, as the
concessionaires have failed to construct the line
within the stipulated time.

Great damage to crops has been caused in
the province of Shantung by torrential rains.
Traffic on the railway between Tsingtau and
Tsinanfu was interrupted for a few days.
Hundreds of peasants are reported to have been
completely ruined by the rains.

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan has been
pleased to confer upon Mr. W. H. Donald the
Order of the Rising Sun, 6th class, in recog-
nition of his services as war correspondent
during the Russo-Japanese War. Mr. Funai-
su, the Japanese Consul, on September 8th
handed Mr. Donald the Order.

We are officially informed that at the half
yearly meeting of shareholders of this Bank,
held at the Head Office, Yokohama, on the 10th
instant, it was resolved to pay a dividend of 12
per cent. p.a. for the half year ending the 30th
June 1908; to add to the Reserve Fund Yen
500,000; and to carry forward the sum of Yen
1,113,000 to the next account.

Sir Alexander Hosie, Kt., Commercial
Attaché at Peking, will represent the British
Foreign Office at the international opium
commission which meets at Shanghai early in
January. The Colonial and Indian delegates
have not yet been nominated, and possibly
India will be represented by an experienced
official from the Bombay Presidency.

A telegram from Peking states that the
report of the recall of H.E. Wu Ting-fang,
Chinese Minister in Washington, in consequence
of certain statements made by his Excellency
concerning the suggested American-Chinese
Alliance, is untrue, and that the Grand Council
has never proposed anything of the sort.

From Tonking papers we learn that the
French military authorities are vigorously
prosecuting the operations against the Chinese
revolutionaries on the frontier. Two serious
engagements were fought at the end of August.
At Hoang-su-Phi a French force of about 300
under Captain Bonnet was attacked by a large
body of "Reformists," and the fight lasted
three days when Commandant Lecroix arrived
and attacked the Chinese from the rear, killing
40 of them. The French losses were two killed
and two wounded.

According to the writer of notes on native
affairs in the *N.-C. Daily News*, Nanning, which
has been made the provincial capital of Kwang-
si instead of Kweilin is destined to become
increasingly important commercially and poli-
tically. A scheme to connect Pakhoi, Nanning
and Kuangtung by rail has been broached by
the Ministry of Posts and Communications,
and it is practically certain that it will be
carried out before long.

Owing to lack of funds to construct the
various railways under proposal and to carry
out the necessary reforms, the Peking Govern-
ment intends, says a writer in the *N.-C. Daily
News*, to conclude a number of loans with the
wealthy Chinese merchants in the South Pacific
Islands. It is stated that the lenders shall be
treated exactly in the same manner as the
British and Chinese Corporation and other
syndicates that have lent money to the Chinese
Government. It is further stated that the
latter has declared that if any one can persuade
the Chinese merchants in those islands to lend
money to it, he will be highly rewarded. It is
reported that Prince Tsai-Chen may possibly
be sent down South to contract the loans
required.

Death has removed another well known figure
from our midst, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, in
the person of Captain D. A. MacDonnell, who
succumbed at the General Hospital from a
stroke of paralysis. The deceased was well
known along the whole China Coast, where he
was constantly piloting foreign men-of-war as
well as other vessels. He was also well known
as Yangtze pilot and in his time has taken some
of the biggest ships that have ever gone up
river up to Hankow. The deceased was an
Irishman by birth, forty-eight years of age,
and first settled in China about twenty years
ago, when for several years he was in the
employ of the C. M. S. N. Co., which service
he left to take up piloting. He was well liked
for his hearty and genial manner and was a
welcome addition to any company. His last
active service was a few weeks ago when he
piloted the Brazilian cruiser *Benjamin Constant*
from Shanghai to Hongkong.

The *Hochi* asks how many of the Elder
Statesmen and Ministers of State now living
will be able to visit the Grand Exhibition of
Japan in 1917. The paper then points out the
ages of the Genro and Ministers in 1917 as
follows:—

GENRO.

	Years.
Marquis Inouye	83
Marquis Matsukata	83
Prince Yamagata	80
Prince Ito	78
Prince Oyama	76

MINISTERS.

	Years.
Marquis Katsura	70
Baron Hirata	69
Baron Ono	68
General Terauchi	65
Mr. Komatsubara	65
Viscount Okabe	64
Count Komura	62
Baron Goto	61
Admiral Saito	60

The paper adds that the majority of the
present Elder Statesmen and Ministers will be
unable to see the Grand Exhibition in the event
of its postponement.

FLOUR MILLING IN THE FAR EAST,

(Daily Press, September 5th.)

We would not expect to find in a Canadian newspaper any support for the idea that flour milling can be profitably carried on in the Orient, but we gather from reports concerning milling operations and the wheat market in Manchuria that the Canadian view that flour milling in this part of the world is necessarily bound to be a failure is one which is open to question. The collapse of the Hongkong Milling Company may be "one of the most spectacular episodes in the history of the industry," but the general question cannot be decided by a single incident. "The Orient" is a large territory, and when the Canadian press tells its readers that the assumption of those who think that the Chinese and Japanese will be able to manufacture their own flour is "predicated on the usual sophistry that the most favourable place to manufacture is where the consumption exists," they ignore the fact that this is not necessarily in opposition to the theory that the nearer a plant is to the source of supply of raw material the better chance it has of profitably working. "The Orient" is not remote from fertile regions containing vast possibilities of wheat production, and milling operations have been developing on a very large scale in Manchuria. Indeed, few people in China have any adequate conception of this development, but they may find in Mr. PUTNAM WEALE's latest book a good deal of illuminating information on the subject. At the time of the Russo-Japanese war there were eighteen respectable steam flour mills in Central and Northern Manchuria, having a maximum output per twenty-four hours of 3,150,000 English pounds, or roughly 1,400 tons a day, and a rough Russian estimate placed the number of big native flour mills, in Kirin alone, at 400. Elsewhere in his book Mr. WEALE mentions the organisation of a Manchurian Flour Trust with an indefinite number of millions as capital, which was intended to swamp the whole of Eastern Asia with Manchurian flour. But the author endeavours to show in the first place that, owing to Government restrictions on the export of flour as well as rice, Manchurian flour has but one field—the eighteen provinces of China, and he argues moreover that Manchurian flour cannot compete with American in China. The best quality of American flour according to the figures he quotes, appears to be materially cheaper in the Far East than the best quality of Manchurian flour on which no transportation charges have been paid; whilst the poorest grades of Manchurian flour which are delivered by the Harbin mills, although cheaper in Manchuria, would probably be (on the basis of the figures quoted by the author), very little so after having been transported by rail and steamer to other places. Mr. PUTNAM WEALE's prices however, are the prices of a year or two ago, but to-day, with a low dollar, Manchurian flour seems to be deriving the advantage. The Japanese, who have a big flour mill at Tiehling, are confident of capturing the market in South Manchuria. More steam mills are being erected at Yinkow, Mukden and Antung, and it is anticipated when these are working the price can be still further reduced, and that "it will not be difficult to effectually check the importation of foreign flour and to crush the native hand mills which are scattered all over the provinces." There can be no doubt that flour milling in Manchuria is destined to become an enormous industry. Russian business methods are poor, and most of the

Harbin mills are under a heavy burden of debt, and they necessarily have to keep prices fairly high, but even Mr. PUTNAM WEALE confesses that in Japanese hands the Harbin mills would immediately become a very considerable source of wealth. In South Manchuria, where there is a vast expanse of fine wheat-growing country, the Japanese have their opportunity. Harbin flour does not seriously compete in the South Manchurian markets, and preferential railway rates apparently give the Japanese milling companies a great advantage over the foreign flour merchants. The Manchurian Flour Mill Company, according to a statement reported to have been made by Mr. Goto, who is prominently connected with the company, has the benefit of a loan of 100,000 yen from the Yokohama Specie Bank without any security, while "the Eastern Chinese Railway is carrying the company's goods at half the regular freight, and the South Manchuria Railway Company is also giving assistance to the company in various directions." This is an interesting admission which we imagine has not passed unnoticed by some of Japan's competitors in the markets of Manchuria. There can no longer be any doubt after this that Japanese traders are receiving preferential treatment on the Manchurian railways; and if it is by this means that foreign flour is excluded from the markets we may expect to hear of diplomatic remonstrances. But the point we wish to emphasise is that the competition of flour mills in the Orient is becoming a factor that the Canadian and American mills cannot afford to disregard.

THE OPIUM TRADE IN SOUTH CHINA.

(Daily Press, September 7th.)

It is of interest to note that in 1907, the first year after the promulgation of the Anti-Opium Edict, the import of foreign opium into China actually showed an increase on the returns for 1906. In that year the import was 54,117 piculs while in 1907 it amounted to 54,584 piculs—notwithstanding the fact that the total arrivals and shipments at Hongkong for 1907, as compared with the figures for the previous year, showed a falling off of 6,724 chests for arrivals and 5,370 chests for shipments. What the explanation of the increased import into China may be, while the arrivals and shipments at Hongkong show such a material reduction we do not know. Some few weeks ago we reviewed the reports made by the Customs Commissioners at the Yangtse ports in regard to the opium traffic in that region last year, and the general interest evinced in that review, which was reproduced by several of our contemporaries in other ports, suggests to us that a similar review of the trade in the Southern ports would be no less acceptable.

Taking first, then, the port of Canton we find the Commissioner reporting that in spite of local anti-opium efforts, there has been no very striking diminution in the importation of the foreign drug; the quantity for 1906—11,146 piculs—was the highest for many years, but it only exceeded the 1907 import by 742 piculs. As to Native opium the import showed an excess of 539 piculs on that for 1906. Therefore, says Mr. KING, taken in connexion with the foreign figures, the trade may be said to have remained very much *in statu quo*. Passing to Mr. W. B. M'DONALD PARR's report on the Kowloon trade we find the statement that some 1,040 piculs of foreign opium passed the Kowloon

stations—the highest figures for the last 16 years—being an increase of 23 over the previous year's figures. Turning, however, to Lappa, we find Mr. WILSON reporting that the import of foreign opium fell short of the 1906 figures by 214 piculs. Mr. VON LINDHOLM at Samshui reports a decrease of 90 piculs. Mr. VAN AALST at Wuchow says that during the year 1907 over 5,000 piculs of native opium came to Wuchow of which only 978 piculs passed into Kwangtung by junk. This showed a great decrease on the figures for preceding years, "due, it is said, to the drug being now carried towards Pakhoi." When we turn to the report of the Commissioner at Pakhoi (Mr. ACHESON) we find the statement that the quantity of foreign opium imported—269 piculs—was the greatest in any year since 1894, the only reason he had heard for the increase being lower prices in Hongkong and consequent ability of the people to buy more of the drug. The trade in native opium is small, being only 14 piculs against 8 in 1906.

Taking now the ports North of Canton, we find that at Swatow there was a falling off, of 77 piculs, in foreign, and 1,410 piculs in native opium. Mr. HARRIS mentions a report that some 25 per cent. of smokers attempted to abandon the habit, but about a third of the number returned to the pipe. The Commissioner, however, says that diminution in the use of the drug and antipathy to the trade are perceptible. Coming to Amoy, we have Mr. BOWEN reporting that the total gross importation of foreign opium amounted to 3,870 piculs, "which is actually, with the exception of two years—1897 and 1903—in which arrivals of native opium were small, the largest importation since 1893. This result which, as the Commissioner remarks, is somewhat surprising in view of the closing of the opium dens during the year, is attributed in the report to the high exchange during the greater part of the year. As regards native opium, the Commissioner reports a decrease of about 800 piculs in the import, but he does not attribute it to diminished consumption. It is due, he says, no doubt, partly to the larger arrivals of the foreign drug and partly to the large local production. Finally we come to Foochow. Here, Mr. MONTGOMERY reports, a good deal of energy has been shown by the officials and anti-opium associations established in Foochow and the neighbourhood to reduce the consumption of opium, and he believes they have had some success with the younger men. The import of foreign opium for the year shows a decline of 168 piculs while the import of native opium fell off by 372 piculs.

Though some of the Southern ports are in proximity to opium-growing districts we note only one reference to diminishing cultivation. That is in the report of Mr. VON STRAUCH, the Commissioner at Nanning, on the West River. Formerly, he says, about 3,000 chests of Yunnan and 5,000 chests of Kweichow opium are said to have been sold in this city; but during the last few years a gradual decrease has taken place, and during 1907 it is said to have fallen about 40 per cent below its original amount. "How seriously this decrease in native opium must affect Nanning trade can easily be judged from the fact that it formed a medium of barter and was generally exchanged here for various kinds of foreign goods, mostly cotton yarn." Two reasons, the Commissioner adds, are given for the decrease; first, the introduction, three years ago, of an increased tax on native opium in the Two Kwang provinces which is said to have brought about an alteration of its old trade routes, and, next,

the anticipation that opium would be prohibited is said to have induced many growers to give up the cultivation of the poppy, and take to growing cotton instead. It may be that in the Two Kwang the internal opium tax is more successfully gathered than in some other parts of China. For instance, foreign opium merchants complain that the greater part of the large production in the Amoy districts evades duty and is carried clandestinely by junk as well as overland to all the neighbouring centres of consumption. "This may or may not be the case," says the Amoy Commissioner, "but considering the well-known lawless character of the Tungan people—the district in which the great bulk is grown—and the fact that an opium tax collector was killed there some two years ago, it would seem that the control of the growers in that region is at any rate not conducted without difficulty."

On the whole then it cannot be said, so far as the year 1907 is concerned, that there is any very substantial evidence of honest compliance with the Anti-Opium Edict. So far as the foreign drug is concerned, the import in 1907 was slightly larger than in 1906, and the only evidence of diminished cultivation of native opium the Customs reports afford, is that we have quoted from the report on the trade of Nanning. The year 1907 has done little more for the cause of the reformers than reveal the difficulties of the task to which they have set their hands.

AMERICA AND HAWAII.

(Daily Press, September 8th.)

It is just ten years ago that Hawaii was annexed to the United States. For some years previously the American residents there had been industriously advocating this in the United States, but the proposal was viewed with distinct disfavour by Democrats and Republicans alike and, had it not been for the Spanish-American war, the Sandwich Islands would either have remained independent territory, or else have become a Dependency of Japan. Just before the annexation by America, the constant stream of immigrants into the islands from Japan was creating some alarm among the Americans who were administering the islands under the native Queen, but when war was declared with Spain, the United States Government fearing that Spain might convert the islands into a base of operations, dispatched a squadron to Hawaii to annex them. In the States politicians regarded the step merely as an act of temporary military expediency, but the end of the war was followed by the definite incorporation of the islands with the United States as a Territory, much to the disgust of a large section of the American public who prophesied that annexation would prove to be a Pandora box of ills. We have the authority of a Honolulu contemporary for the assertion that annexation has instead proved to be "a chest of treasure," a boon and a blessing to the islands. Annexation not only settled the Japanese political problem of the islands, but it has led to such agricultural and industrial developments and consequent expansion of commerce as to enable the local press to speak of "the vastness of Hawaiian prosperity."

In the future more is likely to be heard of Hawaii from the fact that America is about to convert it into a great fortress and naval depot. It is no newly disclosed secret which Reuters announces to us that the United States War Department have prepared plans to make the island of Oahu

(Sandwich Islands) the Gibraltar of the Pacific, and that including extensive fortifications at Honolulu, twelve 14-inch guns will be mounted there, and at Pearl Harbour accommodation will be provided for a garrison of fifteen thousand men, and a dock for the largest battleships. Some of the details may be new, but the main features of the scheme were settled long ago. Congress, in fact, has already voted a million dollars for the fortification of Pearl Harbour. There are expectations that on the completion of the world tour of America's Atlantic fleet, at least six of the battleships will be permanently stationed at Hawaii. *Apropos* of this, we note in one of the Manila papers which arrived by yesterday's mail that great prominence is given to a telegram reporting the Japanese Ambassador, the United States Secretary for War and the President to have been in "vital conference" concerning matters which were not disclosed to the newspaper men; but the *New York Journal* states that among other matters of world-wide importance discussed was a protest presented by Mr. TAKIHIRA on behalf of his Government against the maintenance of two fleets in the Pacific by the United States. This presumably means one fleet at Hawaii and one at the Philippines. That the Japanese Government has made any formal protest is incredible. Japan has no more title to make such a protest than America has to formally protest against Japan's naval shipbuilding programme. The fortification of Pearl Harbour and the construction of a big dockyard there certainly point conclusively to an intention to maintain a fleet at Hawaii, and if the United States Government deems the maintenance of two fleets in the Pacific desirable no other Power can object. America is not likely to use her fleet for any aggressive purpose, and perhaps it was as much for the purpose of reassuring Japan in this regard as in any other connexion that President ROOSEVELT wrote to his Secretary of War last week the letter in which he took pains to declare that the United States holds Japan in peculiar regard and friendship.

THE HONGKONG UNIVERSITY PROJECT.

(Daily Press, 10th September.)

Almost six months have elapsed since the Colony experienced a thrill of pleasurable excitement by the announcement of Mr. MODY's generous gift in the interests of a University for Hongkong. That announcement was followed by His Excellency the GOVERNOR convening a meeting to consider the project and a sub-committee was appointed to go into details. Though nothing has been published up till now of the progress of the deliberations, we believe that the community will soon be in possession of information regarding the various proposals which have been under discussion. What will be still more satisfactory is the knowledge that the erection of the University is well within the region of practical politics. Broadly speaking, only two schemes have, we believe, been considered. Each has its interest and each its value, and though the details are not available for publication we may briefly state the nature of the two proposals.

At first the committee felt somewhat pessimistic as to the success of the undertaking entrusted to them, but with the exchange of ideas hope revived. The Hon. Dr. HO KAI submitted a scheme with the object of showing how the University might

be inaugurated on simple lines and yet grow to a successful institution whose influence would be felt all over the East. His idea, we understand, was to establish a University proper with a small number of students, say from 40 to 60, but attached to this, either temporarily or permanently, a Training College was suggested where instruction could be imparted through the medium of the vernacular and written Chinese. As the professors would not be occupied more than a few hours each day in lecturing to the few undergraduates in the University they would have ample time to lecture as well to the students in the Training College, for which, of course, they would receive additional remuneration. Interpreters, who were past students in the subjects dealt with, would translate the discourses of the lecturers, and by this means large numbers of Chinese, not having lingual difficulties to hamper them, would readily acquire Western technical and scientific knowledge and prepare the way for the men with better qualifications who followed from the University. The fees derived from the training college would help to maintain the University until it became self-supporting. Then the Training College could either be transferred or abolished.

The other scheme which has been before the Committee is one outlined by His EXCELLENCY himself, and to some extent it is opposed to the suggestion of Dr. HO KAI. His EXCELLENCY's proposition is to house the College of Medicine and the Technical Institute in the University Buildings, each to pursue its separate course until absorbed by the higher. The GOVERNOR anticipates that the structure would be completed in two years and during that time an adequate endowment might be accumulated. At any rate he does not counsel waiting until the endowment has been secured. No, despite depression in the Colony he has confidence in the generosity of our citizens to attain that end without much difficulty, and with a Chinese promise of support—though it has not yet, we understand, been formally made—the optimism seems justified. From \$750,000 to \$1,100,000 would be required for the endowment and in so far as the sum falls short of the higher amount by that extent will the scope of the institution be curtailed. When the buildings are completed the local teaching staff recommended by the sub-committee and as many professors as funds will permit will be engaged. Probably one, two or three chairs will be established at the outset: the number depends on the money available for the purpose. Then, if there be a sufficient nucleus of pupils who can pass an entrance examination a beginning will be made with the University under local ordinance. The University course would take four or five years and during that period the promoters may hope to see the endowment increased. Then with the University as a going concern, and if there are students able to graduate, application could be made for a charter. As opposed to the idea of the Hon. Dr. HO KAI, His EXCELLENCY indicates that instruction should be in English with a few English-speaking and qualified Chinese instructors to assist by explaining difficult points. The proposal makes it a condition that the University should grant no degrees that were not up to an English standard. Such in short represents the two schemes which have been under consideration. Of course we do not vouch for the accuracy of the details as we are not yet in possession of the printed statement which will shortly be published.

It will be noted that both schemes have this in common: they provide for a modest start with provision for the natural expansion which may be expected to follow. Dr. Ho Kai's proposal would undoubtedly place Western knowledge within easy reach of students. It would obviate the long period of study which precedes a mastery of the English language—an accomplishment which is necessary to their entering the University. His contention seems to be that the half measure supplied by the partially educated men who pass through the affiliated college would make the Chinese more ready to accept the full measure supplied by the men who graduated at the University. Doubt may be expressed as to the wisdom of this, but coming from such an authority the point is certainly worth considering. On the other hand the plan sketched by His Excellency is more in accord with British ideas. It keeps the University to its distinctive position, but, until the details are made public it is perhaps better not to pass any comment. However the community will feel assured that the Committee have been working towards the object for which they were appointed and that considerable progress has been made. Dr. Ho Kai has withdrawn his scheme so as to obviate all delay, and as the site has already been chosen,—a piece of ground on the hillside opposite Fairlea,—we may hope to see work commenced on the buildings within a comparatively short time, especially as there are gentlemen of financial standing who have declared they will see it through. That spells success. With such knowledge the public may reasonably look forward to the time when the city will become a seat of learning renowned in the East and when her sons will proudly hail their Alma Mater. "Floreat Hongkong."

OTHER UNIVERSITY PROJECTS.

(Daily Press, September 11th.)

As the University about to be inaugurated in Hongkong will be one in which the Chinese will probably form ninety-five per cent. of the students, it may not be out of place to add to our remarks of yesterday some reference to two proposals now under discussion to found Universities in China proper. A few days ago we reproduced from the *Times* a letter referring to a proposed arrangement between Oxford and Cambridge Universities for the founding of a University in China which, while giving a thorough training in Western science and art, would not impart any religious ideas, or, at least, would not be associated with any particular Christian belief. Practically simultaneous with the publication of that proposal was the announcement that the Throne had approved of a scheme for the establishment of a University at Peking and that two million taels had been promised for this purpose. These prospective institutions, added to the two already in existence—one at Peking and one at Taiyuanfu (Shansi)—open up a gratifying vista of Chinese progress, but, to those who are not carried away by the enthusiasm of ideals and who pause to consider the practical side of the proposals, the prospect is not quite so rosy. Lest we be misunderstood, let us hasten to add that neither is it devoid of hope. We willingly join in paying a tribute of appreciation of the work accomplished by the two existing universities at Peking and Taiyuanfu. They have helped to make Western knowledge more acceptable to the people. Their leavening effect on the mass

has been marked. But having said this, we will not be thought ungenerous if we suggest that there is a place in China for Universities which conform more, to the European standard, to the standard set by the British, French or German Universities. The new universities need not be regarded as competitive with the existing institutions. The latter would continue to fulfil their distinctive function. The new Universities would stand for the highest European education, the most advanced study possible.

While China is very largely indebted to missionary enterprise for the measure of Western knowledge which is already hers, she will doubtless appreciate quite as highly the efforts being made in Oxford and Cambridge to "organise an educational centre or university independent of any missionary body." China has suffered as well as gained from missionary zeal, and we can quite understand the desire of the promoters of this scheme to keep such a contentious subject as religious education out of the curriculum. Comparative religions would no doubt be studied, and among these Christianity would have its proper place. It would be regrettable "if the introduction of modern ideas into China should prove only to result in the destruction of Confucian ethics without the erection of any sufficient substitute." But, as we have suggested, a study of comparative religions would enable the student to see the good in all and draw the best from each, and if he declined to accept any particular set of beliefs, he would have learned the golden rule—and would have learned to become a good citizen. Therefore, we have little fear that the dissociation of any proposed new University from a religious body would be detrimental either to its interests or the interests of the Chinese. But if the matter is so difficult as its promoters anticipate—and we dare not minimise the obstacles—why not consider an amalgamation with the Hongkong project? Here with all the advantages of British Government, with all the educational prestige gained by the Colony, the experiment has every chance of success. It has men at hand capable of instructing in practically every department of Western knowledge, Medicine, law, engineering, etc., have their exponents and practitioners in our midst, so that a body of professors can be obtained at comparatively small cost. Of course, if funds are available quite a number of universities could be founded in China with profit to the nation, but if financial and other difficulties stood in the way of any it would seem a better policy to encourage the Hongkong University, which once established and radiating Western knowledge through the Far East, would be the example which would encourage the Chinese themselves to follow. The project which has received the assent of the Throne might be successful in other hands, but when we remember how in China large sums dwindle before they are applied to the purpose intended, and even with the two million taels promised for the University at Peking, we still feel doubtful of its success. We are convinced that there will always be a demand for a University representing the highest Western ideals, with English as the medium of instruction, but there can be no doubt that in the universities which will ultimately be established throughout the Eighteen Provinces, the vernacular will give readier access to that volume of knowledge which is at present a closed book to those who have not acquired a European language. Then, and not till then, can we look for that educational co-operation—the West giving

to the East and the West learning from the East—which is for the mutual benefit of Oriental and Occidental.

THE THIBETAN INDEMNITY.

(Daily Press, 12th September.)

On the authority of "a Diplomatic Correspondent," publicity has been given in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, to a statement that in well-informed circles considerable doubt is expressed as to the probability of the next instalment of the Tibetan indemnity being paid, and it is suggested that a delicate situation will arise in the event of the Thibetan authorities making default in the matter. "These doubts," the writer says, "may perhaps seem excusable enough when it is remembered, first, that Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND's clause in the Treaty by which an army would have occupied the Chumbi Valley pending the full discharge of the indemnity was so altered as to make the British troops vacate the valley at the end of three years; and, secondly, that by the recent Anglo-Russian Convention the British Government is debarred from re-entering Thibet or interfering with its affairs. Thus, now, that our army has left the Chumbi Valley and the only other method of collecting our debt is expressly denied to us, it is small wonder that fears are very generally entertained." The writer goes on to say that he finds it is not denied in official circles that the failure of the Thibetans, at any time, to discharge their obligations would necessitate an interchange of views with Russia in regard to some modification of the Thibetan clause; "but of course," proceeds the writer, "Russia would demand a *quid pro quo*, and it is greatly to be feared that she would ask for certain facilities in Afghanistan at present denied her. In short, the Thibetans might if they were so minded, exercise a very far-reaching effect upon Anglo-Russian relations at this moment."

For our part we cannot see that the failure of the Thibetans to discharge their obligations necessitates an exchange of views with Russia. Great Britain's first step will be to bring the matter to the notice of the Chinese Government. China, as suzerain, confirmed the arrangement made by Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND with the governing authorities of Thibet, and definitely engaged on her part, as did Great Britain on the other part, "to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein." Russia, in the agreement made with Great Britain last year regarding Thibet, definitely recognised the suzerain rights of China, and, what is more, it is definitely declared in Clause II of that Agreement that the engagement entered into between Russia and Great Britain does not modify the engagements entered into by Great Britain and China in Article I of the Convention of 1906,—to the terms of which we have just referred. Therefore, in the event of the failure of Thibet to pay the instalment, the procedure is clear—Great Britain will appeal to the guarantor. Without that guarantee, we take it, Great Britain would never have consented to the important change which the Government made in Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND's Treaty. The original Convention stipulated that as security for the payment of the indemnity (of £500,000 or seventy-five lakhs of rupees payable in seventy-five annual instalments) and for the fulfilment of other provisions relative to trade marts, the British Government should continue to occupy the Chumbi Valley until the indemnity had been paid and until the trade marts

had been effectively opened for three years, whichever may be the later. When this Convention was ratified, however, Great Britain appended to the ratification a declaration to the effect that the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by British forces should cease after the payment of three annual instalments of the indemnity, provided that the trade marts specified in the Convention has been opened for three years, and that in the meantime the Tibetan authorities had complied in all respects with the terms of the Convention. Only in the event of the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley not being completed in the time anticipated in the Declaration was any arrangement made with Russia for "a friendly exchange of views." The possibility of failure or evasion on the part of the Tibetans to make the payments regularly was foreseen, and it would have been lamentable diplomatic weakness indeed had Great Britain, in entering into the arrangement she did with Russia concerning Tibet, allowed to that Power any right of interference in the matter of the fulfilment of the engagements made by Tibet, and ratified by China, as suzerain. The next instalment of the indemnity is not payable until January 1st, and, if there exist any grounds for fearing that the Tibetans will not have the requisite sum ready for delivery, as in the years which have passed since the Convention was signed, we have very little doubt that a word to the Chinese Government would speedily dispel any misgivings on the subject.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Pity the plight of the poor Chief Justice. The time is at hand when the Supreme Court should rise for the annual vacation, but legal gentlemen continue to introduce fresh litigation with a thoughtlessness that is the despair of his Lordship. On Tuesday he gave vent to his feelings in another of the complaints which are not uncommon to the Bench, and when a case which was expected to occupy two days ran through the week and did not finish then, his Honour felt quite disgusted. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick. Japan, however, is not a great way off, and there even a Chief Justice may forget his woes.

Are we likely to arrive at a solution of the subsidiary coinage problem? The question has been so often discussed before that people, realising in the multitude of words a darkening of wisdom, were fain to leave it alone and regard the evils for which it was responsible as inevitable. Whether such an attitude will be maintained is difficult to say. Whether it does or does not, the Government mean to clear themselves from all blame in the matter. His Excellency, I understand, has issued a set of questions to leading business men of the community asking plainly what they want, prohibition or not, and if the Government act on the opinions expressed, as seems not unlikely, they cannot be blamed for the results. They have thrown the responsibility on the commercial interests of the community, and they cannot refuse to accept it. This thoroughness and directness is a characteristic of His Excellency, who deserves to be congratulated on his policy.

Many people possess the idea that the Sanitary Board is composed of a body of men whose work may be necessary but whose sayings and doings are not of very great interest. But it is not so. I have heard of meetings where the dramatic element was conspicuous. I have heard there were occasions when jokes were perpetrated and when the proceedings were decidedly lively. Take last Tuesday's meeting for example. How dull it would have been had it not been for Mr. Hooper, who, like the pugnacious Irishman, never misses an opportunity of whacking at an official head when it is exposed. Not literally, of course. Were it otherwise, the standing orders would have to include the Queensbury rules.

The Volunteer Emergency Corps, suggested a few weeks ago, in the *Daily Press*, is an accomplished fact, and a capable body of young men, willing to render assistance to those in peril on the deep, will assemble on the Praya when typhoons threaten and show that Britons are as ready to brave danger as ever they were. The gallantry of the "Astrea" bluejackets during the last typhoon is an example which will be before the Corps and there is little doubt that not a few members will seek to emulate it, should the opportunity be given.

The natatory achievements of the young Dook swimmers are still exciting comment. No one has undertaken to beat the excellent record which they established. They may have been favoured to some extent by the tide, but, that notwithstanding, their performance will not be easily surpassed even under similar conditions. I hear that the same young men contemplate swimming from Lai-chikok to Stonecutters, which represents a greater distance than any they have yet covered.

The results which have attended my efforts in ventilating grievances and suggesting new schemes have brought a number of people to me with ideas to express. The latest suggestion I have received refers to a shelter for passengers at the Causeway Bay tram junction. People proceeding Shaukiwan way or returning have to alight there and perhaps wait some little time for a car. In disagreeable weather, rainy for instance, it is no joke to stand in that rather exposed place, and a shed of some description would afford a shelter from the rain, a shield from the biting blasts of winter, or a protection from the fierce rays of the summer sun. There is ample space for such an erection. Perhaps the General Managers will take note.

Since the days of infancy I have heard of the geese that lay golden eggs, and I was delighted the other day to read in a Canadian paper that they breed 'em in China. If you will grant me a free advt., Mr. Editor, I would like to mention for the information of breeders that I have a consuming desire to procure for my farmyard a few good-laying specimens of these birds. I don't know exactly where in China they breed 'em; but here is the paragraph:—

The Chinese have a queer way of collecting gold. A certain number of geese are kept in the gold fields, and once in so often they are weighed. Those which weigh so much are killed and their crops examined for gold. It is said that their owners get \$350,000 worth of gold a year in this way.

There are no gold-fields in Hongkong which are used as poultry yards I believe, so that if any dealer is attracted by my offer, I shall have to insist on a proper guarantee that the birds have been well fattened in a Chinese gold-field.

From geese to puppy dogs is not a long jump. One belongs to one branch of Natural History and the other to another. The paragraph in the *D. P.* the other day about dog flesh being regarded as a great delicacy by the native population of Nanning set me wondering on many subjects—as for instance, how many of the lost, stolen, or strayed pet dogs of Hongkong have gone up the West River consigned to the dog butcheries of Nanning? Again, who has not heard the allegation strenuously denied that the Chinese are as fond of roast dog as of roast pig? Evidently one of the old race of poets who flourished in the early days at Canton knew what he was writing about when he described in verse a Chinese dinner and mentioned this incident:—

Covers changed, he brightened up,
And thought himself in luck
When close before him, what he saw
Looked something like a duck.

Still, cautious grown, but, to be sure,
His brain he set to rack,
At length he turned to one behind
And, pointing, cried: "Quack, Quack."

The Chinese gravely shook his head,
Next made a reverend bow;
And then expressed what dish it was
By uttering 'Bow-wow-wow.'

RODERICK RANDOM.

THE FRENCH CONVENT IN HONGKONG.

DIAMOND JUBILEE.

"12 SEPTEMBER, 1848." This simple inscription above the entrance in the main corridor of the French Convent is eloquent of the event which is celebrated to-day. To-day with religious observances the diamond jubilee of this useful institution will be honoured. The historical event was not proclaimed as might have been expected, and it was only by accident that the news leaked out that the historical occasion would be marked in a befitting manner. No ostentation, no self-advertisement is found here. The individual is sunk in the cause. The work is everything, is all important, and any one with a little knowledge of Hongkong knows how the work proclaims itself.

Sixty years in Hongkong! Think of it! A life-time spent in the service of others! Think of the sacrifice, the devotion, and the toil which the sisters have brought to the discharge of their self-imposed task. Think of the failures which must have disheartened them, the misunderstandings which must have filled their hearts with grief, and the ingratitude which must have made them almost despair. Yet they persisted. With prayers and sacrifices they continued, and as a devout sister explained "God has blessed our work."

"12 September, 1848." It takes us back almost to the time of the British occupation. Hongkong was then a barren rock, feverish and unhealthy. Not the place for weak women. Yet the French Sisters found their way here. Their arrival in the Colony was not contemplated at that early period. The three Frenchwomen who were the founders of the movement in Hongkong accompanied the French Bishop Forcade to Japan, but that country being closed to foreigners they had to seek some other field in which to labour. Hongkong was chosen. One can well imagine there was ample scope for their noble influence in the Colony at that time. The soldiers who were quartered here in large numbers would be rough in speech and manner. The merchants who were established here would do little more than attend to their own business. And the Chinese residents would have less regard for human life than at present. How much to be done in education, in caring for the sick and needy, and in life saving? Aye, life saving! How many hundreds of girls who would otherwise have been left to die have been rescued, nurtured, and brought up to be useful members of the community. Bravely the three sisters set themselves to the work which they found at their hand. In a short time they had won their way to the hearts of those to whom they ministered. The labour of their hands was indeed blessed. Encouragement was given to them by the community and by the Government and prosperity attended their efforts until now they represent a factor which is of considerable importance in the life of the Colony.

The French Convent has grown up with the Colony itself. The first to be established it is still the first in importance. The sisters would not say so: They are too modest. They take no credit for the success which they have achieved, but, nonetheless, the community recognise lives of self-sacrifice and hard work. From small beginning the movement grew little by little, and to-day we see the commodious *Asile de la Sainte Enfance*, with hospice attached for old women, on the Praya East, and the fine new home for foundlings and cripples, opened this year at Wong-wei-cheong. It is interesting to note that no fewer than 50,000 children have been received into the homes during the past sixty years, giving an average of 300 per annum. Of course, many of these children were taken in only to die, but wherever the babes had a chance for life it was not neglected. In the early days these missionaries rescued many a little maid from death or life-long misery,—many, a time they even bought children, always girls—from their parents. Boys were held in greater regard. "Yes," said one sister, "we bought babies, poor little girls: we could get three girls for sixty cents." Surely the record of the Orphanage is one to be proud of? We have pointed to the number of children received. It

only remains to add that the greater work has called for more labourers. There are now 27 European and six Chinese Sisters, a big advance on the three who made such a modest start sixty years ago. The buildings themselves, the Asile de la Sainte Enfance, the hospice, and the home at Wong-nei cheong are eloquent testimony of the hard work and sacrifice of the Sisters, who commenced with nothing. These institutions will stand as their monuments, proclaiming to all who see them, lifework of some of the noblest daughters of la belle France.

High mass will be the principal feature of to-day's observances. The beautiful little chapel will be decorated for the occasion, and his Lordship Bishop Pozzoni will officiate.

THE RECENT TYPHOON AT CANTON.

PORTUGUESE SERVICES ACKNOWLEDGED.

We have received for publication the following correspondence between the French and Portuguese Consuls at Canton:—

(Translation.)

Canton, 3rd September, 1908.

SIR, AND DEAR COLLEAGUE.—In a letter dated the 22nd of August, Real-Admiral Perrin, Commander-in-chief of the French Naval Division in the Far East, has requested me to convey his deep and sincere gratitude to the residents, both French and others, residing on the concessions of Shameen, who, undeterred by the fury of the wind, the torrents of rain, and the falling trees, which exposed them to imminent danger, rendered the most friendly assistance to the crews of the French gunboats on the occasion of the typhoon on the 28th July last.

As a result of enquiry which I have instituted, I have found that a certain number of your nationals were among those courageous salvors, and I shall feel particularly obliged to you, if you will please convey to them the gratitude of Admiral Perrin, and I shall be particularly happy, if you will please couple with it my own personal thanks.

I shall esteem it a favour if I can learn from you the names of your nationals who rendered assistance to the crews of the French gunboats in their endeavour to find shelter from the typhoon, and I shall deem it my duty to bring them to the notice of Admiral Perrin.

Will you, Sir, and Dear Colleague, please accept the assurance of my high consideration.

(Signed) J. BEAUVAIS.

Mons. de Moraes,
Consul-General for Portugal.
Doyen of the Consular Corps.
Canton.

(Translation.)

Canton, 8th September, 1908.

SIR, AND DEAR COLLEAGUE.—I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 3rd inst. by which you asked me to communicate to my nationals the thanks of His Excellency Rear-Admiral Perrin, Commander-in-Chief of the French Naval Division in the Far East, for the assistance they rendered to the crews of the two French gunboats on the occasion of the typhoon of the 28th July last.

I am extremely delighted to convey to my nationals the kindest thanks of His Excellency Admiral Perrin as well as those of your good self, which gives them very great pleasure. Although they rendered but small help to the French crews, which they were very happy to do, yet they never thought themselves deserving of such high and pleasant appreciation.

The names of the Portuguese who worked together with the French to render assistance to the French crew are:—Messrs. João Pedro Fonseca, Arthur Pereira, Antonio B. Senna, Julia Noionha, Germano Azedo, and Andronico Alves.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Sir, and Dear Colleague, to ask of you the favour to kindly convey our heartfelt thanks to His Excellency Admiral Perrin, and to accept my renewed assurance of high consideration.

(Signed) J. D. DA COSTA DE MORAES.

Consul-General for Portugal.

Monsieur Beauvais,
Consul for France
at Canton.

PUBLIC COMPANIES.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY, LD.

The twelfth annual general meeting of the United Asbestos Oriental Agency Ltd. was held on September 7th. in the offices of Messrs. Dodwell & Co. Ltd., Queen's Buildings.

Mr. Edgar G. Barrett presided, other shareholders present being Messrs. A. Denison, J. D. Auld, A. Ritchie, T. Skinner and A. S. Grassick (Secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting, the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen.—You have had ample opportunity to examine the report and accounts. I, therefore, propose to follow the usual course and consider them read. Notwithstanding the severe depression that has continued for so long throughout the Far East, we are able to pay the same dividend as last year which, I think, must be considered very satisfactory. Our actual profit on the year's trading is little more than last year and constitutes a record since the incorporation of the Company. It was found necessary, however, to write off slightly more this year for depreciation and bad debts, consequently the amount available for distribution is not quite so much as last year, though only falling short by about Max. \$100. You will see from the accounts, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and \$19.80 on each founder's share, and place \$10,000 to reserve fund, bringing that fund up to \$45,000, and I trust this proposed distribution will meet with the approval of the shareholders. In a business of this description it is of vital importance to pay the utmost regard to the stock, and to see that no old material is allowed to accumulate. This matter has the constant attention of the Company's superintendents, and I can assure you that the stock has been most carefully checked and valued in Shanghai, Singapore, and here, and due allowance made for any articles that are not in perfect condition. The Chairman at the last meeting informed you that a Branch of the Company had been opened in Shanghai in April last year. We have, therefore, the result of a full year's working from that port which I am glad to say is very encouraging. Our Singapore Branch, which has now been established for three years, also continues to show satisfactory returns. Before moving the resolutions I shall be pleased to answer any questions from shareholders.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts be received approved and adopted.

Mr. DENISON—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion, but I am sorry the directors have not been able to carry out the scheme I proposed to try: to do away with founders' shares by giving them ordinary shares for them. I am glad to see that business increases in spite of the depression in trade.

The CHAIRMAN—I did not know that you put forward a scheme, Mr. Denison. You asked two years ago if it could be done, and I think the Chairman then said it would have the consideration of the General Managers. It is a very difficult proposition, and we looked into it very carefully, but could not see how we could very well bring it about. If you put forward a scheme we could submit it.

Mr. DENISON—I think there are only a few shares that are not held by Messrs. Dodwell and Co. They might be asked what they considered a fair number of ordinary shares.

The CHAIRMAN—Of course that would mean a re-adjustment of the whole capital.

Mr. DENISON—Yes, of course.

The CHAIRMAN—In fact a reconstruction of the Company.

The motion was agreed to.

It was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, and seconded by Mr. AULD, that the following dividend be now declared out of the net profits of the undertaking for the twelve months ending 31st May 1908 upon the Company's capital on the said date; namely on the founders' shares a dividend of \$19.80 per share, on the ordinary shares a dividend of 20 per cent for the year, and that such dividends be paid to the existing members on this date.

The proposition was agreed to.

Mr. W. H. Potts was re-elected Auditor on the proposal of Mr. DENISON, seconded by Mr. SKINNER.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business Gentlemen. Dividend Warrants are now ready.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Saturday. Dr. J. W. Noble, chairman of directors, presided, and there were present Messrs. W. Hutton Potts (director), E. J. Chapman, W. E. Clarke, M. S. Northcote, E. S. Kadoorie, Ellis Kadoorie, D. E. Haskell, J. Arnold, S. A. Seth, and C. Mooney, secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—I will, with your permission, follow the usual custom and take the report and statement of accounts as read. The statement which has been in your hands for some days calls for no special comment excepting perhaps the slight innovation of placing in a conspicuous place thereon a statement of the Working Capital of the Company. The figures have been culled from those which appear under the heading of liabilities in the balance sheet now before you. It is upon the sum of \$1,903,092.91 that the dividend has been earned and not, as many suppose, on the capital of \$600,000 contributed by the shareholders. It is only bookkeeping made easy for those who will not take the trouble to look carefully into the figures placed before them, and requires no further explanation. During the period under review the business of the Company has, in common with business generally in the Colony, been very dull, and our revenue is less than for the same period of last year. That your profit is greater is due entirely to economies effected and not to any increase in the receipts. Since last we met, plans have been prepared and contracts signed for the removal of that portion of the Hotel known as the Old Building and the erection on the site made available of a new modern, up-to-date hotel building, the framework of which will be of steel. This framework we hope to have erected and in position by the 27th of May next, and the entire building completed as per contract fifteen months later. That part of our property known as the East wing, a portion of the verandah of which collapsed in the autumn of 1907 and from which the entire front portion will be removed, is now being thoroughly renovated and repaired, and should soon be in first class order and ready for use in our business. To carry out all this work we must have money. Some years ago we issued \$500,000 of mortgage debenture bonds. These will be recalled and bonds of similar nature given in exchange. The new issue, however, will be for \$750,000 instead of \$500,000; with the exception of this change, all the terms and conditions will be identical. The new issue will be made on the 31st of December next. The exchange will be effected through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. A new issue of share capital will also be made, and to this you will be asked to subscribe later on when a special meeting will be called to discuss and decide the terms of the issue, at which time full particulars of this increase will be laid before you for your consideration and approval. We have purposely postponed the calling up of the fresh capital so that it may be unproductive for the shortest possible period of time. Just where it will begin to contribute as a dividend earning power it is impossible for me to say. I can only give you the dates specified in the contracts and those of you who are familiar with building operations in Hongkong know, and better than I can tell you, how misleading it is to insert a date clause in a building contract specifying when the work shall be completed and also, as a rule, what a farce it is to insert a penalty clause of so many dollars a day payable for non-performance of the terms of the contract. To illustrate the futility of inserting dates in contracts I will cite a case in point; we are, as you doubtless know, about to alter the main entrance on Pedder Street. The contract time for the completion of this work was seven weeks from the signing of the contract in July last; three weeks were allowed the contractor to pre-

pare all his materials and a further period of four weeks—seven in all—to place them in position and complete the job. To-day, the 12th of September, is the date arranged for the completion of this work excepting, of course, the tiling which has not yet arrived from England. Had we met yesterday instead of to-day I would have said: "As you entered the building to-day you should have been able to pass judgment on what had been done." You, of course, observed nothing. If anything has been done at all is is certainly not visible. To-day this does not apply, as a scaffolding is now being erected. And yet the contract time expires to-day! When it will be completed we don't know. The East wing will also be finished far behind the contract time. When it will be completed we don't know. It would appear that time clauses in these contracts are pie crust promises made only to be broken. The penalty clause seems also to be inserted with no idea of its ever being enforced, though the clause reads "time is the essence of this contract!" A hollow mockery! In view of this example you will observe the difficulty one labours under in endeavouring to fix a time for the completion of any work in hand. Were the time clauses insisted upon and the penalties enforced, a different state of affairs would exist and the result would be more satisfactory to those who are compelled to build. And I would certainly advise no one to build in this Colony unless compelled.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Captain CLARKE, and carried.

The re-election of Dr. Noble as director was approved on the motion of Mr. ELLIS KADOORIE, seconded by Mr. CHAPMAN.

Mr. SETH proposed, and Mr. HASKELL, seconded, the re-appointment of Messrs. H. W. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe as auditors. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday and may be obtained on application. Thank you very much for your attendance.

The report was as follows:—

Capital subscribed by the shareholders ...	\$ 600,000.00
Reserve fund ...	\$618,975.78
Mortgage debentures	424,000.00
Loan, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	230,116.23
	<u>1,303,092.01</u>

Working capital of the company \$1,903,092.01
Gentlemen,—In accordance with Section 50 of the Articles of Association, the Directors now beg to submit their report for the half-year ended 30th June, 1908.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account amounted to \$80,022.30 as compared with \$73,068.23 for the corresponding period of 1907, being an increase of \$7,754.07.

The Profit and Loss Account, including the sum of \$252.17 brought forward from 31st December, 1907, shows a credit balance of \$79,639.63 which the Directors recommend should be apportioned as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year.....	\$36,000.00
„ transfer to repairs and renewals account.....	15,000.00
„ write off furniture and fixtures ...	1,000.00
„ write off electric plant.....	3,500.00
„ write off steam launch.....	500.00
„ carry forward to new account.....	14,639.63
	<u>\$79,639.63</u>

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. Osborne has been granted leave of absence. Dr. J. W. Noble retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. R. Lowe, C.A., and A. O'D. Gourdin, the latter acting for Mr. Jeffries. Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe offer themselves for re-election.

J. W. NOBLE,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 31st August, 1908.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1908.

To Bad Debts and Refunds	\$ 852.08
To Crown Rent	505.93
To Rates	2,835.20
To Fire Insurance	2,910.96
To Debenture Int. on \$500,000 at 3 per cent.....	\$15,000.00
Less Returned on Debentures held by Company.....	2,280.00
	<u>12,720.00</u>
To Interest Account	7,045.50
To Directors' and Auditors Fees	3,200.00
To Balance, to be appropriated as follows:	
To pay a dividend of 6 per cent. \$36,000.00	
To Transfer to Repairs and Renewals	15,000.00
To Write off Furniture and Fixtures	10,000.00
To Write off Electric Plant	3,500.00
To Write off Steam Launch	500.00
To Carry forward to New A/c.....	14,639.63
	<u>79,639.63</u>
	<u>\$109,709.30</u>

By Balance from 31st Dec. 1907	\$49,252.17
Less Dividend at 7 per cent.....	\$42,000.00
Less Transfer to Repairs and Renewals A/c.....	7,000.00
	<u>49,000.00</u>
By Rent of Shops and Office Old Building	\$2,025.00
By Rent of Shops and Office New Building	4,800.00
By Rents Hotel Mansions	21,000.00
	<u>27,825.00</u>
By Dividends on Shares in Public Companies	730.05
By Scrip and Transfer Fees	14.00
By Bad Debts Recovered	65.78
By Profit on Hotel Working Account for the six months ending 30th June, 1908	80,822.30
	<u>\$ 109,709.30</u>

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT. FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1908.

To Payment on Account of Repairs and Renewals during the half-year ending 30th June, 1908	\$ 6,059.42
To Balance.....	940.58
	<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>
By Amount Transferred from Profit and Loss Account as recommended in last Report	\$ 7,000.00
	<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1908.	
LIABILITIES.	\$ c
Capital:—	
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up)	600,000.00
1,000 mortgage debentures (8 per cent.)	500,000.00
Less 152 ditto held by the Company	76,000.00
	<u>424,000.00</u>
Reserve fund	648,975.78
Sundry creditors	23,469.63
Unclaimed dividends	1,273.00
Repairs and renewals account, balance as per statement.....	940.58
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (current account).....	230,116.23
Profit and loss account, balance as per statement	79,639.63
	<u>\$2,008,414.85</u>

ASSETS.	
Value of Marine lot No. 5 and remaining portion of Marine lot No. 3 and remaining portion of Marine lot No. 7, and buildings thereon as per last account	\$1,75,056.21
Since expended on alterations and addition to buildings	7,751.22
	<u>\$1,082,807.43</u>
Praya reclamation, Marine lot No. 288, as per last account	246,140.00
Building thereon, "Hotel Mansions"	375,752.68
	<u>621,892.68</u>
Cost of three Chinese houses on sections B., C., and D. of inland lot No. 80	33,000.00
Cost of Kowloon Farm Lot No. 3 section A.	30,924.96
	<u>1,768,627.01</u>
Furniture and fixtures, as per last account	116,950.84
Since added	5,289.16
	<u>122,239.80</u>

Installation of electric light, as per last account	24,000.00
Stock of linen, crockery, glassware, etc.	33,740.24
Stock of wine, provisions, household sundries, and stationery, as per inventories	18,815.42
Shares in public companies	5,796.81
Value of steam launch	5,000.00
Sundry debtors	24,504.48
Licenses attaching to half-year to 31st December 1908	1,166.67
Fire insurance (unexpired premia)	2,948.71
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (unclaimed dividends account)	1,273.00
Cash in hand	294.21
	<u>\$2,008,414.85</u>

THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-fifth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the Company, on Saturday, the 19th inst., at noon is as follows:—

The General Managers have now to submit to the shareholders their report on the twenty-fifth year's working of the Company, ending June 30th, 1908.

After paying all running expenses, premia of insurance, remuneration to the Consulting Committee, and auditors' fees, there remains a balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account of \$73,462.04 which, with the consent of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

"To pay a Dividend of 5 per cent. on the capital of the Company, absorbing \$50,000.00 and to write off the balance of \$23,462.04 from the value of the Company's properties on June 30th last."

The unprecedented depression in shipping has been fully reflected on the China Coast and not for many years has there been such a scarcity of cargo offering, and earnings have consequently suffered to a considerable extent.

Advantage has been taken of favourable exchange and scarcity of orders in Home shipbuilding yards, to acquire a steamer of similar type to the "Haiching," larger and superior in every way, at a reasonable cost. The steamer which has been named "Hai-Yang," was built by Messrs. D. J. Dunlop & Company, Port Glasgow, and should arrive about the end of October, and it is anticipated that she will prove a valuable acquisition to the Fleet.

The steamers of the Company have been maintained in their usual state of efficiency and are in first class condition. During the year the "Haitan" had her tween decks relaid throughout.

The amounts appearing as "Freights due" and "Accounts receivable" have since been collected.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Henry Keswick and Mr. A. G. Wood resigned their seats on leaving the Colony, the vacancies being filled by the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar. The Committee now consists of Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. R. Shewan, who retire in terms of the Articles of Association, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. R. Lowe and W. H. Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co.,

General Managers.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. For the year ended 30th June, 1908.	
To dividend paid for year ending 30th June, 1907	\$ 80,000.00
To amount written off for depreciation for year ending 30th June, 1907.....	37,483.15
	<u>117,483.15</u>
To exchange account	2,227.54
To auditors' fees	600.00
To remuneration to Consulting Committee for 12 months	2,000.00
To remuneration to General Managers for office expenses, for 12 months	10,000.00
To balance.....	73,462.05
	<u>\$205,777.73</u>
By balance of profit and loss account, 30th June, 1907	117,483.15
By general interest account.....	2,248.19
By interest on mortgage account	42,355.02
By coal account	1,070.89
By profit on running the company's steamers during the year	42,016.57
	<u>\$205,777.73</u>

BALANCE SHEET, For the year ended 30th June, 1908.	
LIABILITIES.	
Capital account—20,000 shares at \$50...	1,000,000.00
Reserve fund.....	264,638.79
Underwriting account of the company ..	99,067.32
Unpaid bonus	138.00
Unpaid dividends	374.00
Sundry accounts payable.....	33,519.79
Profit and loss account.....	73,462.04
	\$1,471,199.94

ASSETS.	
Value of the Co.'s steamers: —Haitan, Hatching and Haimun, as per last re- port	876,760.00
Less amount written off as resolved at the last general meeting	34,260.00
	642,500.00
Value of buoys and moorings at Swatow, Amoy, Tamsui and Hongkong, as per last report	31,500.84
Additions since made.....	3,185.00
	\$34,685.84
Less amount written off as resolved at the last general meeting	3,228.15
	31,457.69
Payments on account of new steamer ..	231,984.36
Loans on mortgage.....	348,000.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Cor- poration (current account)	103,976.77
Freights due 30th June, 1908	64,459.90
Sundry accounts receivable from agen- cies, &c.	45,170.61
Coal account, stock in hand.....	1,911.00
Cash in hand on 30th June, 1908	524.40
Unexpired tonnage dues.....	1,235.18
	\$1,471,199.94

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING, WEAVING AND DYEING CO., LTD.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the eleventh ordinary meeting to be held at the Offices of the General Managers on Saturday, 26th inst., is as follows:—

The General Managers beg to submit a statement of accounts covering the period from 1st August, 1907 to 31st July, 1908.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$32,053.35, to which it is proposed to add the sum of \$40,000 from equalization of dividend fund, making a total of \$72,053.35, to be appropriated as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 5 per cent for the year	\$62,500.00
To carry forward to credit of next year's account.....	9,553.35
	\$72,053.35

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

On the retirement of Mr. A. G. Wood, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar was invited to take his place. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., LTD.
General Managers.

Hongkong 8th September, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET 31st July, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital account	1,250,000.00
Sundry creditors	375,291.50
Unclaimed dividends	3,871.30
Equalization of dividend fund	60,000.00
Profit and loss account	32,053.35
	\$1,721,216.55
ASSETS.	
Property—comprising land, buildings and machinery	1,303,507.93
Furniture	2,988.53
Sundry debtors	58,604.61
Cash	3,811.82
Cotton, value of stock	183,565.82
Yarn, value of stock	108,450.25
Waste, value of stock	5,524.50
Mill, stores, of stock	51,334.81
Coal value of stock	2,580.50
Fire insurance and taxes pertaining to period after 31st July, 1908	1,347.78
	\$1,721,216.55

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To remuneration to general managers, 10 per cent. on balance of working account	2,335.63
To remuneration to consulting committee	3,000.00
To auditors fee	250.00
	\$5,585.63
To balance	32,053.35
	\$37,638.98
Cr.	
By balance from last year	14,269.68
By gain in working	23,356.30
By transfer fee	13.00
	\$37,638.98

THE DECLINE IN TRADE.

Evidence that the general complaint of poor trade is well-founded is supplied by the quarterly returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs. The dues and revenues collected at the Chinese ports in the first quarter of the year showed a decline of about 36,000 taels as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year. The amount for the second quarter was about 816,000 taels less than the sum collected in the corresponding quarter last year.

The collections for the second quarter were as follows:—

Port.	Total Collection.	Total Collection, same Quarter, 1907.
	Hk. Tls.	Hk. Tls.
Antung ...	42,905.031	35,692.595
Tatungkow ...	6,710.294	—
Dairen ...	103,501.604	—
Newchwang ...	234,661.618	221,711.021
Chinwangtao ...	27,139.017	52,402.998
Tientsin ...	731,502.965	1,024,063.771
Chefoo ...	194,387.929	178,130.526
Kiaochow ...	240,806.918	291,752.404
Changking ...	155,524.542	74,814.941
Iohang ...	8,664.585	12,461.713
Shasi ...	3,020.836	2,753.007
Changsha ...	67,420.092	52,271.932
Yochow ...	30,833.539	4,230.983
Hankow ...	850,563.500	712,160.333
Kinkiang ...	238,808.329	252,546.138
Wuhu ...	238,423.668	116,079.901
Nanking ...	48,774.681	62,273.833
Chinkiang ...	306,821.163	363,651.985
Shanghai ...	2,539,755.261	3,345,546.522
Soochow ...	2,961.325	22,784.747
Hangchow ...	146,942.226	151,899.846
Ningpo ...	19,379.755	154,030.953
Wenchow ...	25,894.800	19,392.221
Santiao ...	95,071.117	94,001.811
Foochow ...	192,501.631	218,625.539
Amoy ...	169,849.958	204,022.215
Swatow ...	364,874.517	381,501.166
Canton ...	750,036.081	786,696.411
Kongmoon ...	29,972.015	27,238.598
Samshui ...	5,769.512	45,688.596
Wuchow ...	108,295.483	111,955.524
Nanning ...	13,030.333	4,718.131
Kiungchow ...	69,385.611	63,134.910
Pakhoi ...	28,635.845	23,576.460
Total Hk. Tls ...	8,274,801.795	9,091,515.031

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

September 9th.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT CEMENT WORKS.
At the Green Island Cement Works, on Friday, a Chinese workman who was caught in the machinery belts was crushed to death. An inquiry was held by the coroner, and a verdict of accidental death returned.

FRACAS IN CHIN-SAN GARDENS.

A picnic at which a number of Naval officers entertained their friends in Chin-San Gardens on Sunday ended in a free fight with a party of Chinese. It is a noteworthy fact that when our sailors attend anything of this kind in these gardens some extraordinary event takes place. In future it will be wise for foreigners on pleasure bent to avoid Chin-San, for the Chinese will no doubt be thirsting for revenge after this latest occurrence. When the party arrived at the gardens the band began to play and dances were organised. Celestials in the vicinity

thinking it was a free show, gathered to "look see" but the sailors objected to their presence and attempted to drive them away. One of the native spectators, a Mandarin's soldier, objected to being turned away, and picking up a bottle brandished it threateningly. A sailor attacked the man and turned him out of the gardens. Later, when the party were returning home, they were attacked by a mob of Chinese, and a free fight resulted, but fortunately no serious damage was done on either side.

MACAO'S REVENUE AND ADMINISTRATION.

The two largest sources of our Colony's income are derived from opium and fan-tan. From the former we gain some \$400,000 a year, and from the latter about the same amount. I do not know whether the Government have ever thought how, when the revenue derived from the opium traffic disappears, they will make up this sum. A substantial amount is derived from fan-tan, but it is doubtful whether this will continue a permanent source of revenue. There are other monopolies granted by Government, but they are scarcely worth mentioning. The Santa Casa Lottery is not likely to have a long run, as the tickets are now offered at \$9. Truly the financial outlook of Macao is not a bright one.

It is a pleasure to be able to state that the administration of the Colony is now in the hands of a clever and prudent man, and in our new Governor, Senhor Regada, we have an administrator who has already shown his sympathy with the aims of residents to improve the condition of the Colony. In view of the fact that a new commercial city is springing up on the West River, it is to be hoped also that His Excellency will induce the Fazenda to modify industrial and house taxes. Many of the businesses here are at a standstill owing to the treatment meted out by the Fazenda to local merchants, who in many instances have had to pay heavy fines. Many, I am sorry to say, have left the Colony to settle in places where "squeeze" is not so prevalent.

THE PROMENADE CONCERT.

A very successful promenade concert was held on the Volunteer Parade Ground on Saturday evening. The weather was all that could be desired and the Parade Ground was tastefully decorated with lanterns and bunting, and presented quite an animated appearance. The programme was not a lengthy one, but what there was of it was distinctly good, and the evening was productive of one or two surprises, showing that Hongkong is by no means devoid of local talent. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Edwards, who are well known favourites, contributed several items with their usual ability and were deservedly encored. Messrs. Benedetto and Ivan Caryll gave a couple of humorous songs in really excellent style, and Lieut. R. M. Cross kept the audience in the best of spirits by his clever impersonations. The surprise of the evening was provided by the Misses Beth whose rendering of "La Serenata" was given in a charming manner and created quite an impression. Their voices were most tuneful and blended beautifully, and their efforts were well worthy the ovation accorded them. Messrs. P. W. Goldring, another favourite at these concerts, met with considerable acclamation, and last, but by no means least, the band of the 3rd Middlesex Regiment, whose services were available by the kind permission of Lieut-Colonel Glover and the officers of the regiment who gave several well known selections.

LAUNCH AT KOWLOON DOCKS.

On September 10th a cruiser built to the order of the Chinese Imperial Government for patrol duty on the West River was launched from the Kowloon Docks. Mrs Stokes, wife of Rear-Admiral Stokes, christened the vessel "Kiang Ta" as she left the weights with steam up, and as the cruiser took the water the usual salvo of crackers rang out. Commodore Lin, representing Admiral Li Chun was present, usual complimentary speeches were made and Mr. Mitchell presented Mrs. Stokes with a gold bangle as a memento of the occasion.

THE HON. MR. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

THE INVESTITURE.

The investiture of the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk with the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George took place at Government House on Sept. 9th in the presence of a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen, which included many of the leading Chinese residents of the Colony. His Excellency, in Windsor uniform, entered the ball-room with Colonel Darling R.E., on his right and Rear-Admiral Stokes on his left. Behind followed the leading officials and members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, for whom seats were provided on either side of the Governor. As soon as His Excellency had taken his place, the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk was escorted into the room by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and the Hon. Mr. William Chatham, both Companions of the Order.

His EXCELLENCY then said—Mr. Wei Yuk, I am deputed by His Majesty King Edward to present you in his name and on his behalf with the insignia of the Companionship of the most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George which he has been pleased to confer upon you. Your long and loyal service to the Government of this Colony, and the absolute integrity and rectitude of character which distinguishes you, is known and appreciated alike by the British and Chinese communities. For many years, and more especially in times of difficulty and disorder, the Registrar-General has looked upon you as his right-hand man. In suppressing the Triads, in the strike of 894, in the Namoa piracy affair, and also in the reorganisation of the district watchmen by Dr. Stewart, and more recently, since I have been here, in the management of the Po Leung Kuk, and as a member of the Legislative Council since 1902; in all these and in many other matters you have, during a long public career, served His Majesty and the interests of the Colony loyally and well. I am quite sure that I voice the general opinion of your fellow subjects, British and Chinese, in Hongkong, when I say that we believe that there is no one better deserves the honour which His Gracious Majesty, by my hand, confers on you to-day. On behalf of the whole community I offer you congratulations, and express the hope that you may long be spared to continue to render public service as you have done in the past; and I would desire to add my own personal most hearty and cordial good wishes.

His EXCELLENCY then handed to Mr. Wei Yuk the documents appertaining to the honour, and pinned the decoration to his breast.

This ended the ceremony and the company were invited to partake of refreshments. The Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk remained busy receiving the congratulations of his many friends.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

Within a few days the proceedings of the University Sub-Committee will be published and although they have not yet become public property we learn that the preliminary discussions have been fraught with good results. Two schemes have been under consideration. One, by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, suggests beginning with a University, to which should be attached temporarily or permanently a Training College where instruction could be imparted by means of the vernacular and written Chinese. The fees from the Training College would support the University until the number of students in attendance at the university rendered unnecessary the assistance derived from this affiliated college, which could then either be transferred or abolished. The second scheme has been proposed by His Excellency the Governor who advocates both the College of Medicine and the Technical Institute being housed in the University buildings, the erection of which should be proceeded with at once. During the two years before the structure would be completed the endowment fund might easily be raised to the amount adequate to make a good start. The teaching staff, with one or two professors, would be engaged, and by the time there were students qualified to pass entrance examinations and subsequently able to graduate

the University would be a going concern. Then a charter could be obtained and Hongkong University would enter on its career of usefulness.

The sub-committee is composed of Dr. Atkinson, Hon. Mr. Pollock, Hon. Mr. Chatham, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Dr. Wright, Dr. Thomson, Mr. Bowley, and Mr. Turner, with Sir Paul Chater, as chairman.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

The report of the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society for presentation at the Annual General Meeting to be held at the City Hall, on Friday, 25th September, states:

Gentlemen,—Your Committee have pleasure in presenting to you their Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st August, 1908. The balance at the credit of the Society now stands at \$4,871.47.

St. Andrew's Day, 1907, was celebrated by a Ball, which proved both a social and financial success. There was a credit balance of \$192.77 being less by \$531.16 than the previous year when the profit was \$723.93.

On Friday, 3rd January, the officers of the Cameron Highlanders were entertained by the Committee at tiffin, and the men of the Regiment were invited to accept the hospitality of the Society which they did. Their stay in the Colony was expected to be one of two or three days only, and the necessary arrangements had to be more or less rushed, but, thanks in great measure to the efforts of Mr. T. F. Hough, the entertainment to the Regiment was most successful, and was also fully appreciated. The cost of entertaining was met by private subscription from members.

Mr. C. H. Ross was invited to join the General Committee on the departure of Mr. Henry Keswick from the Colony, and accepted.

Eleven new members joined the Society during the year as against 44 in the previous year.

The Committee would specially ask the assistance of members in securing new members. The entrance fee is only \$5.00 and the annual subscription \$2.00.

R. SHEWAN,
Chairman.

DAVID WOOD,
Acting Hon. Secretary.

IMPROVEMENTS AT MACAO.

Mr. A. H. Wilzer, the Acting Commissioner of Customs at Lappa, mentions in his annual report that the vigour and thoroughness of the Public Works Department of Macao are manifest in almost every part of the Colony. "Apart from the Praia Grande extension towards the Barra Fort, this beautiful promenade has in its continuation northwards been subjected to many improvements. From it a new road, commanding a magnificent view, branches off at the end of the range on which the lighthouse is standing, and thence leads back at a higher level towards the city until it emerges at the end of the pine grove skirting the Avenida Public Gardens. The main artery leading from St. Antonio Church to the North has likewise been taken in hand with commendable energy, and well laid out cross-roads connecting it with the Avenida Vasco de Gama are nearing completion. These well-kept roads ought to form an additional attraction for those who may wish to spend the hot summer months in salubrious surroundings.

The list we published on Sept. 8 as evidence of the decline in trade did not include the Kowloon and Lappa returns. The dues and duties collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs at Kowloon in the first quarter of the year amounted to Tls. 94,703 as compared with Tls. 109,336 in the corresponding quarter of last year. For the second quarter the figures are Tls. 82,331 and Tls. 101,095 respectively—giving a total decrease for the half year of Tls. 33,357. In the case of Lappa an increase of nearly Tls. 10,000 is shown in the collections. This is almost entirely accounted for by an increase in the duty and likin collected on opium. In Kowloon there has been a decline under these headings.

NEW INDUSTRIES NEAR HONGKONG.

The following items are taken from the report of Mr. W. R. M.D. Parr, acting Commissioner of Customs at Kowloon:

About 3 miles north of Shaohung, on the north shore of Mirs Bay, near the village of Koohtow, a mine, known as Pakshikong is being worked by the Fuk Hing Mining Company, Limited. The minerals found are silver and lead. The samples assayed 55 per cent. of lead and 38 ounces of silver per ton. The area of the concession is small and the work is at present carried on by some 70 coolies with picks and shovels. This mine had been formerly worked, but had to be abandoned because the primitive pumping machinery then in use was unequal to prevent the flooding of the mine. At present two Douglas pumps are employed, but more up-to-date steam pumping machinery is shortly expected from Europe, so the prospects of the mine are considered good.

A glass factory was established by the Fuk Wai Kung-shu in Pakshawu at Bias Point. The Company has a capital of \$400,000, divided into 80,000 \$5 shares, which it is intended to further increase as necessity arises. The works are situated near the beach, and the site seems well chosen, as an inexhaustible quantity of white sand suitable for glass making is to be found in the neighbourhood. The machinery at present in use was purchased from the old Hingham glass factory at Kowloon, but it is intended to replace this in the near future by more up-to-date plant. Some 500 workmen, chiefly local men, are now employed daily; but it is computed that as soon as the new plant has been installed from 2,000 to 3,000 work-people will be employed at the works. So far only glassware of a coarse quality and finish has been made. With a view to facilitate transportation of the factory products into the interior, a proposal is now under consideration to build a light railway to connect the works at Pakshawu with the prefectural capital of Waichow.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN KWANGTUNG.

In his annual report Mr. Paul H. King, Commissioner of Customs at Canton, says:—

The Kwangtung government, being satisfied with the good working of the two Hsinan stations purchased from the Telefunken East Asiatic Wireless Telegraph Company, has acquired eight other wireless telegraph stations for a "range of 100 miles," and established a school for wireless telegraphy in Canton, the Telefunken East Asiatic Wireless Telegraph Company supplying an engineer as a teacher for the school. Two stations were erected for the purpose of practising, one in the Wireless Telegraphy School in Canton and one in Whampao, the stations being opened (for Government service only) on the 1st September. The course of the Wireless Telegraphy School lasted from the 1st June to the 1st December. After the examination, at which 20 students obtained the certificate for wireless telegraph operators, the Kwangtung Government engaged from the Telefunken East Asiatic Wireless Telegraph Company an expert as adviser to the Kwangtung government and also to supervise the teaching of new students and the installation of the stations. Regarding the places where the stations are to be installed, the Kwangtung government has decided to use them for the extension of the system of wireless telegraphy in the West River and the Delta, more especially to establish effective means of communication for the use of the river patrol, so as to enable the administrative authorities to control the patrol service in a more strategic and efficient manner than it would otherwise have been possible. Of gunboats, the "Leungshan" (built a year ago in Hongkong) has already been fitted out with the wireless telegraph installation; the four new gunboats now in course of construction in Hongkong are also to be fitted with wireless telegraph installations. The ship and land stations in and around Canton have been placed under the supervision of Admiral Li Chun.

RAILWAYS IN KWANTUNG.

Mr. Paul H. King, Commissioner of Customs at Canton, in his annual report says:—

Of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, it is yet early days to speak. The company has opened its head office on Shameen in the old Deacon hong. Taotai Wei Han is Managing Director, representing Viceregal interests, while the Engineer-in-Chief is Mr. Frank Grove, late of the Soochow-Nanking Railway. These preside over a mixed staff of foreign and Chinese engineers and clerks, and it is understood that the line along its whole length, Canton to Samohun, has been surveyed. Here, again, whether or not the line gets through to the Kowloon shore, China is safeguarded against loss in the fact that the East River traffic alone will be quite sufficient to secure commercial success, besides the possibility, by a branch extension from Weichow, of bringing Canton into direct communication with Swatow.

The number of passengers carried by the Canton-Fatshan Samshui branch of the Yueh-Han Railway during the year was 3,191,524, of whom 2,081 were non-Chinese. The gross earnings amounted to \$592,990, of which sum \$579,519 were contributed by passenger traffic. The freight earnings are still insignificant, and will probably remain so until the railway can be carried on along the West River bank, say, as far as the important town of Shihing, a distance of about 26 miles from Samshui. The extension would be neither difficult nor costly, and could not fail greatly to enhance the takings of the company both in freight and fares. During the year some notable improvements have been effected. The rolling-stock has been greatly strengthened by the purchase of two eight-wheel locomotives from the American Locomotive Company. The Shekwaitong ferry wharf has been easily paid for out of the year's earnings, and the line stands as a living example of the truth of the proposition I have ventured to put forward—that railways in China are bound to pay. In view of the number of passengers carried by the railway, it might be thought that "steam boating" on the Fatshan Creek had been killed as effectively as similar traffic on the Mississippi; but such is not the case. It has, however, been severely cut into, and there can be little doubt that when the company has so arranged matters as to run trains actually into the town of Fatshan—the present Fatshan depot is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town,—the launches will for the most part find their occupation gone. Incidentally, too, another of China's problems will be solved, as the inhabitants on the banks of the Creek will no longer be tempted to piratical ventures by the spectacle of the wheezy launch, with its dollar-laden passenger tow crawling past their doors at all hours of the day and night.

THE "ENTENTE CORDIALE" AT CANTON.

Mr. H. H. Fox, the Acting British Consul-General at Canton, in a public notification says he has much pleasure in bringing to the notice of British residents on Shameen the following correspondence which has recently passed between the French Consulate and the Consulate-General with reference to the assistance rendered to the French gunboats on the occasion of the typhoon of July 28th last.

[Translation.]

M. BEAUVAIS TO MR. FOX.

1st September, 1908.

SIR, AND DEAR COLLEAGUE,—In a letter dated 22nd August, Rear Admiral Perrin, Commander-in-Chief of the French Naval Division in the Far East, has requested me to convey his deep and sincere gratitude to the residents, both French and others residing on the concessions of Shameen, who, undeterred by the fury of the wind, the torrents of rain, and the falling trees, which exposed them to constant danger, rendered the most friendly assistance to the crews of the French gunboats on the occasion of the typhoon on the 28th July last.

I feel that I cannot do better than request you to be so good as to bring this expression of the Rear-Admiral's appreciation to the notice of your nationals, and I venture at the same

time to express to you my full sympathy with these sentiments.

(Signed) J. J. BEAUVAIS.

MR. FOX TO MR. BEAUVAIS.

3rd. September 1908.

SIR, AND DEAR COLLEAGUE,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 1st instant, in which you are so kind as to convey to me, for the information of my nationals, an expression of the appreciation by Rear-Admiral Perrin, Commander-in-Chief of the French Naval Division in the Far East, of the services rendered by the foreign residents on Shameen to the French gunboats on the occasion of the recent typhoon.

It will give me great pleasure to acquaint my nationals with the contents of your exceedingly courteous communication, and I take this opportunity to tender to Admiral Perrin and yourself our sincere thanks for your most kind appreciation of services which, while trifling in themselves, were rendered in a spirit of good comradeship and admiration for those brave French sailors who worked so nobly to save their ships.

I have &c.

HARRY H. FOX.

NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

[BY OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT.]

August 30.

NEW MINISTER FOR PEKING.

H.E. N. Korotowetz, the new Russian Minister to China in succession to the late Mr. Pokotiloff, arrived in Peking this evening from St. Petersburg, having travelled by Siberian Railway and stopped en route in Manchuria for a day or two. He passed straight through Tientsin to Peking, but at the Settlement Station there was a large gathering of Russian and other foreign residents to meet him. He is of course well known in North China, and will be a very popular Minister.

BRITISH POST OFFICE AT TIENSIN.

The official announcement that the British Postal Agency in Tientsin would be closed on October 10 next, has been followed by another official notification that it is to be continued. The negotiations, which at one time broke down, have been fruitful in securing the continuation of this boon to all residents in the port and their correspondents throughout the British Empire. The announcement was made yesterday, and has caused the greatest satisfaction.

THE SIBERIAN ROUTE.

The Imperial Railways of North China—whose track in this province and in South Manchuria just beyond the Great Wall has been washed out by the recent heavy rains, causing an interruption of through traffic—announce that from the 18th prox., they will accelerate the service on their main line between Peking and Moukden, performing the whole run without any stoppage for the night at Shanhaikuan as heretofore. The duration of running time between these two places is reduced, thus effecting a saving of passengers' time. The whole journey to Europe from North China and vice versa is becoming increasingly popular with travellers, whether on business or pleasure, this being due to the increasing speed of the trains and the increased comfort of the carriages. Already it must have affected the steamship traffic via Hongkong and Suez; in the future it is bound to do so still more. In fact it would not be surprising to find Hongkong residents going home via Siberia in cases where quickness is a consideration. Already it takes but 15 or 16 days to go from Peking to London, and next year probably the journey will be done in a fortnight.

Three more men have been publicly executed at Hanoi for participation in the attempt to poison a whole artillery brigade. Several other men have been sentenced to penal servitude or simple imprisonment for periods ranging from two to twenty years. Further important arrests have been made, and one Frenchman is incriminated.

THE LOSS OF THE "DUNEARN."

HOW THE DISASTER OCCURRED.

The N. Y. K. steamer "Saikyo-maru" from Formosa brought to Moji the news of the loss of the British steamer "Dunearn," which was caught in a typhoon off Goto Island, near Nagasaki, on the 26th ult. The crew of the ill-fated steamer numbered 52, of whom only two were rescued, one being Mr. William Phillips, aged 24, third officer, and Mr. John London, aged 22, fourth engineer. These two young officers were fortunate enough to be picked up by the "Saikyo-maru" at noon on the 27th. The others were drowned.

The crew of the "Saikyo-maru" made a collection in aid of the survivors, which amounted to ¥57 and this sum was presented to the rescued officers.

The steamer belonged to the Dunedin Steamship Company, of Leith, Scotland, and was commanded by Captain Graham. She left Nikolaievsk on the 12th August and arrived at Karatsu on the 20th to load coal. She left Karatsu on the 24th at 9 a.m. for Singapore.

The vessel, says the *Nagasaki Press*, is well-known in Japan ports and Captain J. Graham who had commanded her for over seven years, will be sincerely mourned by many friends in the various ports. He was a native of Edinburgh and, although only 38 years of age, was Commodore of the Dunedin Shipping Company's fleet and had gained the reputation of being a careful and skilful seaman. The "Dunearn" was the last vessel to enter Vladivostok during the war with a cargo of coals and narrowly escaped being captured by the Japanese. Coming out of the Siberian port, the vessel was stopped by the Japanese, but as there was nothing on board then to which exception could be taken, Captain Graham had the satisfaction of completing the adventurous voyage in safety and arrived at Moji in February, 1905. Although of a somewhat reserved temperament, Captain Graham became very popular in the course of repeated visits to Shimonoseki and Moji, where he was known and respected by all the foreign residents and where the news of his death has occasioned deep gloom. He resided at Leith and leaves a young widow, to whom the heartfelt sympathy of all will go out in her great bereavement.

The third officer, who was one of the survivors, gave an account of the disaster and the following summary was placed at our contemporary's disposal:—

"On the 26th inst. the 'Dunearn' encountered a very severe typhoon and could make but little headway, the engines going slow."

"All the officers' cabins were flooded and the bursting of a sea in the bunkers gradually worked the coal into the engine-room, giving the vessel a bad list. Just before she turned over, another heavy sea struck her and carried away the starboard side of the bridge, chart-room, and cabins, and washed overboard the Captain and Second Mate. The No. 2 hatch was also burst open and this seems to have been the chief cause of the vessel going over. She sank about 3 p.m. on the 26th when in, roughly, Long. 128 E., Lat. 30/31 N. The other survivor was the Fourth Engineer. They were picked up by the 'Saikyo Maru' in Long. 127.19 E., Lat. 31.43 N. at 11.20 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. on the 27th."

Officers of the "Saikyo Maru" state that, as their vessel passed the scene of the wreck, a great number of sharks were seen, and, it is probable, that many of the missing seamen fell victims to the voracious monsters.

The Wai Wu Pu has drawn up some new regulations about the protection of foreign missionaries in the various Provinces with a view to preventing anti-missionary riots in future. The Foreign Ministers in Peking will shortly be notified about the regulations so that they may be put into force as soon as possible. It is said that the regulations do not interfere with the work of the missionaries at all and are simply for the guidance of the local Chinese authorities. In fact no foreign missionaries will be recognized by the Chinese Government unless their names have been registered in the books of the Wai Wu Pu through their respective ministers.

THE ORIGIN OF "PIGEON ENGLISH."

"A Griffin" writes to us:—"Since my arrival in Hongkong the jargon known as 'Pigeon English' has interested me very much, but I have never been able to ascertain how it came to be the commercial *lingua franca* of China, seeing that the English were not the first Europeans to trade with China. What was the language medium through which the other foreigners traded? Can you throw any light on the subject?"

We are not old enough to remember how the Spanish and Portuguese and the Dutch got on in the days before the British traded with China, but suppose they managed as the Portuguese do in Macao to-day, by teaching natives words in constant use and thus forming a "pigeon" language of their own. The supremacy of "pigeon English" in the centres of trade along the China coast must be regarded as a tribute to the aggressiveness of the British.

Our correspondent, and, doubtless, many others, will be interested in the following remarks on the subject which we take from an old book entitled "The Fan Kwei in Canton," written by one of America's pioneer merchants and published in 1882:—

Pigeon-English is the well-known name given to that unique language through the medium of which business was transacted and all intercourse exclusively carried on between the 'Western Ocean' foreigners and Canton Chinese. For years after my arrival but three foreign residents were Chinese scholars—namely, Doctor Morrison; the present Sir John Francis Davis, the last Chief of the English East India Company's establishment; and one American, myself—while 'Pigeon-English' had grown up with the early days of foreign intercourse with the port of Canton. It is not difficult to arrive at the creation of this particular and strange language. Foreigners came to Canton for a limited period, and would not or could not apply themselves to the study of so difficult a language as the Chinese, of which even a sufficiency for commonplace purposes was not easy to acquire, and if acquired would be useless anywhere else. The local government also placed serious obstacles in the way of learning it, to the length of beheading a Chinese teacher for giving lessons. This is on the authority of Dr. Morrison, who related to me an instance that took place before I arrived, and he further informed me that for years after his own arrival in 1807 he was obliged, as a protection to his own teacher, to study at night in a room with lights carefully screened.

On the other hand, the shrewd Chinaman succeeded in supplying this absence of the knowledge of his own language by cleverly making himself familiar with *sounds* of foreign words, and conforming them to his own monosyllabic mode of expression, at the same time using simple Chinese words to express their meaning. He thus created a language, as it may be called, deprived of syntax, without the logic speech, and reduced to its most simple elements. It took firm root, became the conventional medium of intercourse in respect to transactions of enormous value and magnitude, and exists in all its vigour and quaintness to this day.

It was undoubtedly an invention of the Chinese, and long anterior to the appearance of the English at Canton in its origin, as may be proved by the admixture of Portuguese and Indian words still to be found in it, the latter having probably been originally made known by those primary visitors from the western world via India. The English came more than a hundred years after; words from their language were then gradually incorporated, and increased with the disappearance of the Portuguese, who confined themselves to their own growing colony of Macao, until, finally, the former became the principal traders, and thus this language became known as Pigeon-English.

The word 'pigeon' is simply a corruption of 'business,' and with its companion means *business-English*. Of Portuguese origin we have the most undoubted proof in such words as *mandarin*, from *mandar*, to order; *compradora*, from *compra*, to buy; *joss*, from *Deos*; *pa-te-le*, from *padre*; *maskei* from *masque*,

never mind; *la-le-loon* from *ladrao*, a thief; *grand*, from *grande*, the chief, as, for instance, 'grand shop'; *junk*, from the Portuguese sound of *Chung* in the dialect of the East Coast, where they first traded. Of Indian words we have *bazaar*, a market; *Shroff*, moneydealer; *chunam*, lime; *tiffin*, luncheon; *go-down*, from *ka-dang*; *lao*, one hundred thousand; *coolie*, a labourer; *chit*, a note or letter; *bungalow*, a cottage; *kaarle*, curry, and others.

Some peculiarities of expression and application of two words constantly used in Pigeon-English may be mentioned. The language was by no means confined to those of foreign, but it contained quite a vocabulary of words of Chinese origin; it was, in fact, a very mixed tongue. 'Chop,' for instance, is of perpetual occurrence. It is the same as 'cho,' which signifies literally any 'document.' A shopkeeper's bill is a 'chop,' so is an Imperial edict or a Mandarin's proclamation; a cargo boat is a chop-boat, it does duty also for a promissory note, a receipt, a stamp or seal, a licence for shipping off or to land cargo, a mark for goods, or a permit. 'First quality,' is expressed by 'first chop,' and an inferior according to quality is No. 6, 8, or 10 'chop,' the worst of all. When a coolie is sent on an errand requiring haste, he is told to go 'chop chop.' A 'first chop' man speaks for itself, so does 'bad chop man.'

The variety of uses to which the compound word 'chow-chow' is put is almost endless, and in some cases have a directly opposite meaning. For instance, a 'No. 1 chow-chow' thing signifies 'utterly worthless,' but when applied to a breakfast or dinner it means 'unexceptionally good.' A 'chow-chow' cargo is an assorted cargo; a general shop is a 'chow-chow' shop; provisions of all kinds are classed under the general head of 'chow-chow,' and as may have been remarked in the list of the Factories, one was called the 'Chow-chow' from its being inhabited by divers Parsees, Moormen, or other natives of India.

Although by the Chinese all foreigners were called 'Fan Kwae,' or 'Foreign Devils,' still a distinction of the drollest and most characteristic kind was made between them. The English became 'Red-haired devils,' the Parsees, from the custom of shaving their heads, were 'White-head devils,' Moormen were simply 'mole devils.' The Dutch became 'Hollan,' the French 'Fat-lan-sy,' and the Americans 'Flowery-flag devils.' The Swedes were 'Suy' and the Danes 'Yellow-flag devils.' The Portuguese have never ceased to be 'Se-yang kwae,' thus retaining the name first applied to them on their arrival from the 'Western Ocean' (which the words signify), while their descendants, natives of Macao, are 'Omun kwae,' or 'Macao devils' from the Chinese name of the town.

In the Canton bookshops near the Factories was sold a small pamphlet, called 'Devils' Talk.' On the cover was a drawing of a foreigner in the dress of the middle of the last century—three-cornered hat, coat with wide skirts, breeches, and long stockings, shoes with buckles, lace sleeves, and in his hand a cane. I have now one of these pamphlets before me. It commences thus, 'Yun,' and under it is its 'barbarian' definition, expressed in another Chinese word whose sound is 'man.' After many examples of this kind come words of two syllables—thus, 'kum-yat,' with their foreign meaning expressed by two other Chinese characters pronounced 'to-te-y' to-day—and so on to sentences, for which the construction of the language is peculiarly adopted. This pamphlet, costing a penny or two, was continually in the hands of servants, coolies, and shopkeepers. The author was a Chinaman, whose ingenuity should immortalise him. I have often wondered who the man was who first reduced the 'outlandish tongue' to a current language. Red candles should be burnt on altars erected to his memory, and oblations of tea poured out before his image, placed among the wooden gods which in temples surround the shrine of a deified man of letters.

A Hankow paper notes that German firms have again been successful in securing the bulk of the contracts for the Canton-Hankow railway, two local British firms having only managed to secure a very small contract each.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

September 3rd.

THE CANTON STEAM LAUNCH ASSOCIATION.

Steam-launches are prohibited from boarding wharves without special license from the I. M. Customs authorities. Several of the launch owners have recently complained of this matter to the Secretary of the Association who sent a dispatch to the Viceroy concerning the affair. This document turns out to have been written without authority from the President of the Association, Mr. Yu Kin Cho. The latter disclaims all responsibility and the writer will be fined for his unnecessary zeal.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

It is reported that the officials here have received private instructions from the Prime Minister, Chang Chi Tung, that owing to frequent troubles arising between the shareholders and the Directors of the Company and also the mismanagement of affairs of the concern by the latter, the Government has decided that unless 5 per cent. of the second instalment on the shares which is now due is collected before a certain date, the Government will take back the line and undertake to construct the Kwangtung section itself.

ILLITERATE MILITARY AND NAVAL OFFICERS.

The Minister of the Board of War has instructed Viceroy Chang to examine all the Military and Naval Officers from General and Admiral downwards and find out and report to the Board those officers who are uneducated and to order them to devote certain hours every day to the study of the characters.

SILK GUILDS SENDING REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD.

The Silk Filature Guilds of Nam Hoi, Poon Yü, Shun Tak and other silk producing districts have decided to raise a large fund for the purpose of sending representatives to all the foreign silk markets to investigate and study the silk trade.

It is their intention to deal direct with the foreign home buyers in the near future, as the representatives will remain permanently in those foreign markets where silk is largely consumed.

Owing to the dulness of the silk trade this year, the Presidents of these guilds recently held a joint meeting at which it was stated that silk is one of the largest lines of trade in the Kwangtung Province. The export of this commodity to foreign countries last year was enormous and all those who were connected with the trade made handsome profits. This year the demand for silk has been considerably diminished and prices of all kinds of silk have fallen immensely. Many merchants have failed, and numerous filatures have been compelled to close down. Unless representatives are sent abroad the silk men regard themselves as in the dark and as unable to understand what is the real cause of the fluctuations. By having representatives abroad they say they will be in direct touch with the exact position of affairs in the foreign markets. These representatives could cable when there is any demand in the markets and would be able to sell direct to the buyers. "This is the only means to make money in a sure way," they say.

TAMPERING WITH MAILS.

The owners of the "On Kee" steam launch, trading between Canton and Waichow have reported to the Postal Commissioner here that the newly-appointed Superintendent of the Pak ha Likin Station has insisted upon opening all the sealed mail bags to look for dutiable articles, but the Captain of the launch protested and none of the search officers dared to open them. The Captain reported the matter as the Likin officials might forcibly open them on another occasion.

OLD MILITARY OFFICIALS.

Admiral Li 'I sun issued a notification yesterday to the effect that, although he has held office for a long time, many of his subordinates are unknown to him; some of them are too old (over 70 years of age) and useless for the service; others, being incapable and ignorant; so he requires that all should register themselves personally at his office before the end of this

year so that he may judge for himself whether they are fit for the service or not.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF THE NEW DOLLAR COINS.

The Viceroy has issued instructions for a strict search to be made with a view to the discovery of persons who are smuggling or remelting the new dollar coins of the province which are now nowhere to be found. It is a mystery where these coins have gone. Those caught smuggling will be fined ten times the amount they attempted to smuggle and will also be banished.

EXPORT OF COFFINS—AND FIREARMS.

There is a great increase in the annual export of coffins from Kwangtung to Hunan Province. Formerly about 50 to 60 coffins were annually sent, but during the last two years it has reached the large total of 300. It is a curious coincidence that modern firearms are to be found everywhere in Hunan and it is surmised that there must be some connection between the two Provinces. The Hunan Viceroy has requested his Kwangtung colleague to have every coffin that leaves his province examined to ensure that it does contain a corpse and not firearms.

September 4th.

TRANSFER OF I. M. CUSTOMS OFFICIAL.

It is reported that the I. M. Customs here received a cablegram from the Acting Inspector-General of Customs yesterday transferring Mr. Alabaster, Indoor Deputy-Commissioner to Soochow. It is said that Mr. J. C. Johnston, Acting Commissioner at Wuhu, is likely to succeed him here.

THE ARMIES OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES.

General Chang Wai Chi, who has been deputed by the Board of War to inspect the Reformed Armies of the Southern Provinces, has arrived in Fookien, and is expected here shortly. Viceroy Chang has given instructions to the Military Authorities to make preparations for the reception of the General and also to hasten the preparation of a list containing the number of soldiers enlisted, their names, and the number of rifles and other fire-arms and ammunition in store, and plans of all the barracks and military stations in the Province so as to have them ready for delivery to General Chang on his arrival.

THE CANTON GOVERNMENT CEMENT FACTORY.

The Director of the Government Cement Factory recently reported to Viceroy Chang that, in order to complete the works of the factory, a further sum of 270,000 taels is necessary.

Upon receipt of the report His Excellency instructed the Provincial Treasurer and the Bureau of Local Affairs to pay the amount out of their treasuries. Unfortunately the funds of both these treasuries are rather low; but, as the Cement Factory is regarded as an important Government concern, and the sum required is enormous, the officials of the above departments decided to borrow the amount from a local Shansi bank. The amount will be repaid to the bank in instalments with interest out of the profits made by the Cement Factory.

OPIMUM SMOKERS DISMISSED FROM SERVICE.

A few days ago the Commissioner of Customs here dismissed two Chinese clerks for continuing to smoke opium after they had signed the pledge to give up the habit. One clerk had been in the I. M. Customs service for about 12 years. It is said that he originally purchased the position for 3,000 taels.

FLOOD RELIEF FUND.

The following gambling monopolies viz:—Shew Wing Shan Piu Co., Western Suburb Fantan Co., Old Walled City Fantan Co., have donated \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$12,000 respectively to the Flood Relief Fund.

PROVINCIAL TREASURER'S RESIGNATION ACCEPTED.

It is reported that Viceroy Chang has accepted the resignation of the Provincial Treasurer, Woo Pak Fong. On his departure the Provincial Literary Chancellor will be appointed Acting Provincial Treasurer.

FRENCH OFFICIALS DECORATED.

On the recommendation of the Viceroy of Canton, several officials of the French Colony of Kwang-Chow-Wan have received decorations of the second and third degrees from the Chinese Government for services rendered in capturing pirates.

SILK DEALERS ROBBED.

Recently the firm of Mr. T. E. Griffith here entered into a contract with the Mi Lun firm for the purchase of 60 bales of silk and a sum of \$10,000 was paid to the latter firm as bargain money.

On the 18th ultimo, the Mi Lun firm dispatched several foks with 2,500 taels to a town called Hang Sze in the Nam Hoi District to purchase silk from the flatures there for delivery to Mr. T. E. Griffith. On their voyage to Hang Sze they were robbed of the whole amount while the boat was at anchor at a large village named Ng Cheun quite close to Canton, by a band of robbers belonging to the village of Lam. The leader's name is Tam Yan who is a nephew of Tam Kwok Chi, a powerful resident of the village. The booty was taken to the Ancestral Temple of the village where it was divided amongst all those who took part in the robbing.

H. B. M. Consul-General has reported the matter to the Viceroy who is said to have given orders to the Nam Hoi Magistrate to arrest the culprits and punish them.

September 7th.

MOURNING DISREGARDED.

His Excellency Yeong Shing, ex-Minister to Germany left Canton for Peking on the 3rd instant. The Wai-wu pu telegraphed for him because they are in urgent need of a high official with knowledge of foreign languages. Yeong is still in mourning, and according to Chinese Custom, Civil officials cannot hold appointments during their mourning, so that the summoning of His Excellency to Peking shows a disregard of custom.

THE MACAO BOUNDARY.

Owing to frequent troubles arising between the Chinese and the Portuguese Governments over the boundary question of Macao, Viceroy Chang has suggested to the Wai-wu pu the establishment of a foreign office in the district of Chin Shan where a sub-prefect will be appointed to deal with international questions.

FLOOD PREVENTION.

The Self-Government Association has written a letter to Viceroy Chang suggesting the construction of large canals in the Canton Delta to lead the waters of the North, East and West Rivers into the neighbourhood of the mouth of the River near the sea, so as to prevent the repetition of disastrous floods in future. They also suggest the prohibition of reclamations of the foreshore in the Delta for paddy fields. The Viceroy replied that he has been considering this important subject ever since the flood happened and has had several interviews with the Kwong Chau Prefect on the matter. He has given instructions to the Provincial Treasurer Judge, and several Taotais to report to him the names of officials acquainted with hydrography and these will be instructed to inspect the Rivers and devise means to carry out the project. This might interest some Hongkong engineers.

September 8th.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Viceroy Chang has received a dispatch from the Grand Council at Peking stating that, in view of the public agitation for Constitutional Government, the Throne has recently issued an Edict fixing a definite time for the establishment of Parliament. The dispatch goes on to say that the Empress Dowager and the Emperor consider that great responsibility is attached to all officials, high and low, in this important matter, as they had taken a leading part in recommending Constitutional Government. Consequently, it is their duty to cause thorough investigations to be made for the purpose of ascertaining what is the best procedure. If there are any persons well versed in Constitutional Government it is the duty of all Viceroys and Governors to recommend them, so that the Throne may know those who are useful and employ them.

All officials are requested to exhort the educated classes who are against the establishment of Constitutional Government and forbid them inducing the public to protest against it. They are also to forbid the making of seditious speeches.

NEW FIRE-ARMS REGULATIONS.

The Waiwupu has sent to the Viceroy copies of the new regulations regarding the importa-

tion of fire-arms into China by foreign merchants. It is said that the new regulations have been approved of by the Foreign Ministers at Peking. The Viceroy is requested to distribute copies to all the Customs Houses and Likin Stations within his jurisdiction. This is the outcome of the "Tatsu Maru" affair.

SLAVE LAWS.

It is reported that Viceroy Chang has instructed the Provincial Judge to draw up a law covering the prevalent custom of selling boys and girls as slaves. A clause must be inserted giving right of redemption within a fixed period, a reasonable rate of interest being allowed on the purchase price. The purchaser of a girl is to be prohibited from selling her to any house of ill-fame.

OPIMUM LICENSES.

Up to about a month ago anybody who wished to obtain an opium license could easily do so by going to a licensed opium shop and purchasing some opium. He would be immediately arrested and fined a couple of dollars for purchasing opium without a license, and a license would thereupon be given to him, free of charge. Dealers in opium licenses have often made use of this trick and the officials were pleased to see it repeated as it benefited both parties. This is the surest and quickest way to obtain a license. A license is granted to a person free of charge and, but the officials make nothing out of it, they are usually rather slow in granting licenses; then, again, an applicant has to answer a series of questions and go through a lot of unnecessary trouble in obtaining it. The result is that very few opium smokers care to take the trouble to go personally to the police stations and apply for a license. This has created a new line of business known as the opium license trade.

I am informed that the Government has ceased issuing the paper license and intends calling in all the present licenses and replacing them with wooden ones, in which case a fee will be charged all new applicants. The price of each license is quoted as 10 taels in Fatsan, and business is said to be rather brisk.

SMUGGLER ARRESTED.

It is reported that Captain Lui Chan Hoi, who was recently appointed Captain of the Shamoen Guard, has arrested a Chinese stoker of the s.s. "Heung Shan" who is alleged to have been implicated in the smuggling of the 200lbs. of dynamite and 2,000 percussion caps. The man is now detained in Luis Yamen pending investigations, which are expected to lead to the arrest of other persons who were connected with the affair.

The explosives have been dumped into the River near Fu Moon (Tiger Fort). The Custom House Officers who made the seizure have been rewarded with Tls. 160, being 80 per cent of the value of the articles seized.

REINSTATEMENT OF CASHIERED OFFICIALS.

Viceroy Chang has recently memorialized the Throne to reinstate many officials who were cashiered or degraded by ex-Viceroy Shum. Prominent among them are ex-Marshal Soo Yuen Chun, ex-Nam-Hoi Pui King Fook, ex-Colonel Li Sai Kwai and ex-Prefect Li Ka Cheuk. Pui was to return to Canton and receive official appointment, but the merchants here, on hearing the news, immediately petitioned the high Cantonese officials in Peking to take measures to prevent Pui's return to Kwangtung. Li Sai Kwai is now in Canton and is the monopolist of the Western Suburb Fantan. It is reported that he is about to receive an official appointment. Li Ka Cheuk is on his way to Canton and will be appointed Prefect of certain Prefecture.

A few days ago His Excellency received a decree from Peking in reply to a memorial sent by him reinstating the cashiered officials ex-sub-prefect Shum Lun Shu and ex-Colonel Lui Chan Kok, who were cashiered on account of the Lienchow massacre.

What is especially noteworthy about this fact is that the Viceroy has given them their former positions in Lienchow again. In the Viceroy's memorial he exonerated these two officials from responsibility by stating that it was beyond their power to suppress the riot which occurred so suddenly, and he blamed the American Missionaries who, he said, had caused the riot by rousing the anger of the people through interference with a religious ceremony.

September 9th.

ARTILLERY BRIGADES WITHOUT GUNS.

At the beginning of the year the Board of War instructed Viceroy Chang to form two artillery brigades. The recruits were enlisted some three months ago. Recently His Excellency instructed the Bureau of Local Affairs and the Authorities of the Reformed Army Department to purchase over thirty modern quick-firing guns and heavy field guns from the Krupp Arms Factory through Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. here. The prices were settled after consultation with the Viceroy and a contract was signed with the firm, after which His Excellency reported the transaction to the Board of War who replied that the prices of the guns ordered were much higher than those purchased from the same factory by the Northern Army and requested the Viceroy to defer completion of the contract.

It is reported that the Viceroy has cabled to the Board of War that the recruits having been already enlisted, it is necessary to have these guns for training purposes as soon as possible; otherwise the soldiers would be wasting their time and the Government would be wasting at the same time an enormous sum of money in supporting them. Moreover, in the event of a rising in the Province there are no heavy guns to oppose the enemy; and under all the circumstances he requests the Board of War to permit him to carry out the contract with Messrs. Carlowitz and Co. without further delay so that the training of the reformed artillery may not be retarded.

LARGE PIECE GOODS FACTORY ESTABLISHED

A wealthy Ching Yuen gentleman named Chu Kwan Yu has started a piece goods and dyeing factory called the Yuen Hing Shat Yip Co. on a very large scale in the Ching Yuen City with foreign machines of the latest type.

It appears that a few years ago Mr. Chu sent a batch of students abroad to study the piece goods and dyeing industries. These students returned to China last year bringing with them a large quantity of machinery, and a factory was erected in Ching Yuen. The establishment commenced operations about two months ago. It is reported that they have turned out very fine specimens of woollen and cotton Mela cord, printed chintz, Oxford shirtings, cotton singlets and various other cloths, altogether over ten kinds. Samples of their piece goods have been sent to many of the large piece goods dealers for examination in order to obtain orders and the dealers state that the weaving and the colour of the dyeing are both far superior to those manufactured in Japan. It is reported that a large number of orders has been placed with the new factory by many of the leading merchants, to such an extent in fact that more machinery has to be ordered at once as the output is not equal to the demand.

FLOTATION OF A BIG MINING CONCERN.

The Bureau of Agriculture, Labour and Mines here recently made a thorough investigation into the mining affairs of the Kwangtung Province. It is reported that they have discovered that over thirty mining concessions, rich in minerals, have not been worked at all. The Superintendent of the Bureau in his report to the Board of Agriculture and Mines in Peking mentioned that he had already appealed to the public to form a mining company with a large capital. The Government will subscribe half of the amount required and co-operate with the merchants in developing all the mines in the Province. In the Superintendent's notification he stated that mining is one of the most paying businesses, if sufficient capital is raised to purchase the requisite mining machinery, and, in support of his statement, he quoted the Government antimony mines in Yu-Yuen and Kook-Kong near Canton as yielding handsome profits to the Government.

OFFICIAL MATTERS

The Provincial Literary Chancellor received cable instructions from the Board of Education at Peking to issue notifications to all the schools and colleges in the Kwangtung Province prohibiting the smoking of cigarettes by all students under 15 years of age. If this regulation is strictly enforced it will seriously affect the cigarette trade.

The Board of Revenue has sent telegraphic instructions to Viceroy Chang to permit all

railway materials to enter the Kwangtung Province free of duty for three years.

Viceroy Chang has received a copy of an Imperial Edict recently issued by the Throne requesting all Viceroys and Governors to find out, and report, the number of shops that sell prepared opium and all the districts where poppy is grown, in their respective provinces. The Edict orders all Viceroys and Governors to gradually close down the number of these shops and restrict the cultivation of the poppy annually.

UNSATISFACTORY TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The Chinese are again complaining of the bad management of the Telephone Company here. They are very angry with the Company and many letters have been written to the Press ventilating their grievances. The operators are too inquisitive and want to know who you want to speak with. They are not satisfied with hearing the number asked for, but they want to know who you are and what you want of the other man. Nine times out of ten when a person wishes to make use of the telephone it is interrupted.

The whole institution needs reform and the present state of affairs is a disgrace to the Company and its managers.

September 10th.

A WARNING TO OFFICIALS.

The Waiwupu has instructed the local authorities to notify all Taotais, Prefects and Magistrates to be more prompt and careful in dealing with international affairs. Owing to the dilatoriness of the officials and the frequent mistakes made by them through ignorance of International Law and Treaty regulations the Government has been involved in trouble and has had to pay heavy indemnities. The Waiwupu requests that in future copies of all dispatches and correspondence regarding international matters be sent to them for perusal, no matter how trivial the affair may be.

This order may be the outcome of the serious mistake made by the officials in the "Tatsu Maru" case.

It is also reported that the Foreign Consuls have requested Taotai Wen Tsung Yao to settle certain matters which have been pending.

A CABLE RAILWAY.

The Chinese merchants here have received cable news from Peking stating that Deputy Leong Yung Wu, who was recently delegated by the Board of Posts and Communications to proceed to Canton to investigate the affairs of the Canton-Hankow Railway, has arrived in Peking and has sent in his report to the Board. The report states that ex-Minister Sir Chan Tung Leong Shing has spent \$6,000,000 of the company's money to construct 60 li of railroad. This statement has greatly surprised the Minister and all the high officials of the Board.

Prime Minister, Chang Chi Tung, will leave Peking on the 9th moon to make an investigation into the matter himself.

A LIKIN DISPUTE.

Some time ago a foreign merchant here imported a quantity of native tobacco leaf which was consigned to him by a foreign firm in Wuchow. The goods were shipped to the Canton Merchant by the s.s. "Nanning" and full duty was paid to the Imperial Maritime Customs. While the tobacco leaf was being landed and stored in a godown on the Shaker, the excise officers of the tobacco monopolists seized the goods for not having paid certain Likin duty called the "Tso-li" before landing the goods. The "Tso-li" is purely a native tax and cannot be levied on merchandise consigned to or imported by foreign firms. There are over 30 kinds of likin taxes under the name of "Tso-li," levied on both foreign and Chinese merchandise. Formerly all the "Tso-li" taxes were collected by officials appointed by the Bureau of Local Affairs.

These taxes were levied by this Bureau under the pretext of obtaining funds to purchase guns and to repair the forts of the Province; but these taxes are really illegal just as are the Fan-tan and other gambling taxes which the Officials designate as taxes levied to provide funds for the search and capture of robbers and pirates.

Of late years the Government has turned these taxes into monopolies and they are now farmed out to the different guilds and merchants.

In the case under notice the foreign merchant reported the illegal seizure to his Consul who communicated with the Viceroy on the subject and demanded the return of the tobacco leaf. His Excellency, through the ignorance of his Chief Foreign Secretary or Deputy, replied that, according to Treaty regulations, no foreigners are allowed to purchase native produce and sell it in any Treaty Ports (!) The goods were confiscated on the ground that the operation was against Treaty regulations and that the labels on the goods indicated their Chinese origin. His Excellency suggests that the foreign merchant should sue the purchaser of the good.

On the other hand, if the purchaser to whom the goods have not been delivered is sued, the Chinese threaten to boycott the foreign (British) merchant.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 4th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIMS AGAINST THE IMPERIAL BREWING COMPANY.

Judgment was entered in three actions against the Imperial Brewing Company of Hongkong, but on the application of Mr. Davidson of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings a stay of execution was granted. The first action was brought by A. F. Weis, the brewer, for \$400 due for wages, the second was by Messrs. Lane Crawford and Company to recover \$265.53, and the third was by Messrs. Mayasaki and Company for \$145 for goods sold and delivered.

Monday, September 7th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

MOTION FOR A NEW TRIAL.

Mr. Slade continued his address in reply to Mr. Pollock's application to set the decision aside in the case in which a Chinese firm sued Messrs. Renter, Brockelmann and Company for alleged wrongful seizure of property.

Dealing with the question of process, Counsel said that any party who judicially caused a void and irregular process to issue was liable in trespass. The law looked to the cause or causes, and it did not matter through how many ministerial hands the matter had passed; the person who had originally caused the process to issue was liable in trespass. If any man asked the Court to do an irregular thing, and a thing which was absolutely improper in law, and if the Court acceded to his request by inadvertence, then the person suing was liable; but, if a person, without reasonable and probable cause, went and asked the Court for remedy, and an irregular process was issued judicially, then the applicant for the process was not liable in trespass. If a man accused another of an offence which was a summary offence for which no warrant could issue, and if he in proper form applied for the right remedy and the magistrate by mistake issued a warrant, the man was not liable because he had merely applied for the magistrate to do the right thing, and the magistrate had, by mistake, done the wrong thing.

The Chief Justice—Even if the magistrate acts without jurisdiction?

Mr. Slade—Even if he acts without jurisdiction. But if the party goes to the magistrate and requests him to issue a warrant for the apprehension of so and so, and it subsequently turns out that no warrant can legally issue, then both magistrate and party will be liable.

The Chief Justice—If it is a ministerial act?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

The Puisne Judge—You say a man would be liable in trespass then.

Mr. Slade—I think so, my Lord, because the mistake was his.

The Chief Justice—It is a mistake to suppose that a magistrate issues warrants. It is the magistrate's clerk in most cases.

Sir Henry Berkeley—By authority of the magistrate.

The Chief Justice—There are some cases in which a magistrate acts ministerially.

Mr. Slade—The act of a magistrate would be judicial in such case, so I think I am wrong. A good instance of the kind is this: A man has a right, on fulfilling certain conditions, to issue a warrant of arrest or for the arrest of property under a mean process of this Court, and an irregular process is issued, a process which is irregular can be set aside for irregularity under the rules. Then the applicant is liable.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Only after it is set aside.

Mr. Slade—After it is set aside, when it is set aside, and if it is void of an issue.

Sir Henry Berkeley contended that on consideration of paragraph 7 of the statement of claim the warrant would be found to be a good warrant; it had not been impeached. There was no evidence whatever to show that there had been personal interference by Reuter, Brockelmann and Company with the Pun Yu magistrate or the person who issued the warrant. All that plaintiffs could prove was that the Pun Yu magistrate, having placed what might be called bailiffs in possession of the shop and goods, Reuter, Brockelmann's agents in Canton, finding that they were to be at once subjected to a boycott, withdrew execution from the shop. Finally, Counsel said he would submit with some insistence that this case should not have gone as far as to make it necessary for him to take the necessary points with regard to libel and the other points he took, because when the case concluded he moved for a n. n. suit, inasmuch as plaintiffs had not established that the wrongs complained of were actionable by law in the place where they were committed, or in Hongkong.

The Chief Justice—Our decision will be reserved until after the long vacation, but now that this case is over I have one word to say. There are certain paragraphs in the shorthand writer's notes of the summing up, on pages 11 and 12, which I don't think ought to remain there. I therefore order that they be struck out as being irrelevant to the issue, and containing an unwarrantable imputation on the Court.

[This refers to a discussion which took place in Court nearly two months ago between the Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., and His Honour the Chief Justice.]

Wednesday, September 9th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK SUED.

Action was brought by Lau Man Cho, otherwise Lau Hok Shun, to recover from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 34 title deeds which, plaintiff alleges, are his property, and are wrongfully detained by the defendant.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewins and Harston) appeared for the plaintiff, while the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the defendants.

The statement of claim set forth that the plaintiff was a gentleman residing at Shanghai. The defendants were wrongfully in possession of documents, the property of the plaintiff, and, although plaintiff had demanded them, the defendants had refused to give them up. The claim was for the delivery of the said documents or \$600,000 damages.

The statement of defence said that defendants' position was lawful. The documents were handed to the defendants by the Wang Fung firm, in which firm plaintiff was a partner, for the purpose of securing the re-payment to the defendants of certain bills of exchange with interest. The said bills were drawn in the usual way of business of the said firm, for the purpose of obtaining money from the defendants for the use of the said firm, the proceeds received from the defendants on the sale of the said bills being paid by the drawers (who acted as agents for the Wang Fung firm in the negotiations, to the said firm. If (which the defendants did

not admit) the documents were the property of the plaintiff, and were not the property of the Wang Fung firm, the plaintiff authorised the firm, or in the alternative negligently put it in the power of the firm by entrusting them with the possession of the documents, to charge the documents as a security in the manner, aforesaid. Some of the bills were still unpaid, and there was owing to the defendants in respect of such unpaid bills for principal alone the sum of \$1,340,450.83. In the alternative, the defendant said that the proceeds of such unpaid bills has been applied for the use or benefit of the Wang Fung firm. The defendants were in the circumstances entitled to a charge, or in the alternative to a lien as bankers, or in the alternative to retain such documents for the purpose of securing repayment to them of the said principal and all interest due thereon, which principal and interest was due and owing to them by the said firm, and by the plaintiff as a partner therein. The defendants did not admit that the documents or any of them were the property of the plaintiff, and denied his right to recover them. Further, they said the Court had no jurisdiction to determine the title to land or to a charge or lien on land which was situate in a foreign country, namely at Canton in the Empire of China. Proceedings were now, and were at the time of the commencement of this action, pending between the parties to this action in China, before the Namhoi Magistrate at Canton, in connection with the right of the defendants to retain possession of the title deeds. In the said proceedings before the Namhoi magistrate, wherein the defendants in this action were plaintiffs and the plaintiff was defendant, the plaintiff in this action had put in certain pleas by petition, thereby submitting to the jurisdiction of the said magistrate in connection with the title deeds of the said land. Under these circumstances the institution and continuance by the plaintiff of this action was vexatious and embarrassing to the defendants and was an abuse of the process of the Court. The defendants further made a counter claim for the payment by the plaintiff to the defendants of \$1,340,450.83, together with interest thereon at the rate of eight per cent. per annum.

Mr. Slade said he ought to have mentioned that an appearance was entered by the defendants in this action conditionally, but without their having obtained leave to file a conditional appearance, and without their taking any steps upon that conditional appearance to set aside the writ or anything done thereunder.

Mr. Pollock thought, seeing the pleadings had been read, that he should take the point of jurisdiction. The first point of jurisdiction was a question which did not seem to require any evidence to support it. His Lordship would see in the statement of defence that this honourable Court had no jurisdiction to determine the title to land, or to charge or lien on land situate in a foreign country. Although it was a fact that this claim of the plaintiff was for the return of certain deeds handed to the defendant's, his Lordship would appreciate that the question of the title to the land was involved, that was to say, to the extent of whether or not the defendant's had any charge, or lien or security upon the land which was represented by these deeds. By way of emphasising that point, Counsel referred to the prayer of plaintiff in the statement of claim. Plaintiff claimed the delivery of the said documents to him, or \$600,000 damages. It was obvious that these deeds—pieces of paper—as apart from the property which they stood for and represented, were of very little value; but, obviously, the reason why the alternative claim was made for \$600,000 was because that would be the value the plaintiff would put upon the property represented by the deeds. The defendants said these deeds were deposited with them as security, and that the deeds were deposited by people who were authorised by plaintiff. The point really raised was what was ordinarily called an equitable deposit of deeds as representing the property included in the deeds. As his Lordship was aware, such things were constantly done; deeds were deposited as security, and that formed what was known as an equitable charge on the land represented by those deeds. It was not in every case that a formal document

of mortgage was drawn up conveying the property.

His Lordship—Where was the deposit made? Mr. Pollock—The deeds were brought to the defendant bank here. Obviously the effect of the charge would have to be determined according to the law of China because the title to the land would be registerable in China. To put it shortly, the land register of this property was not within the Jurisdiction. The land itself was without the Jurisdiction, and Counsel submitted that the only authorities which possessed jurisdiction to deal with the title to the land were authorities outside the Court—the Chinese authorities.

His Lordship—It seems there is a new registration law.

Mr. Pollock—I think your Lordship knows there is a certain register kept in China?

Mr. Slade—I don't think the Court can take judicial knowledge of the law in China.

His Lordship—If your proposition is good it stands quite irrespective of registration.

Mr. Pollock—Whether this Court could, as it were, issue a mandate to the Chinese authorities to direct them in this matter—to direct them adopting the plaintiff's point of view, that the plaintiff is entitled to this property free from any charge of the Hongkong Bank or not.

His Lordship—Surely the only question is whether a charge exists or not.

Mr. Pollock—This would be obviously a question affecting the title of property in China; that is to say, your Lordship's decree, whatever it may be—whether in favour of the plaintiff or the defendant—will affect the right of property outside the jurisdiction.

His Lordship—Assuming there is a registration law in China, the question of title can only be influenced by the man in possession of the title deeds.

Mr. Pollock—The title deeds are merely the symbols of property. If they were not recognised as symbols, the Bank would say they were mere papers.

His Lordship—There are a number of cases in which the Courts have dealt with mortgages relating to foreign lands.

Mr. Pollock—I don't think there is any case which would go to the extent of giving the Court jurisdiction. We submit your Lordship must take cognisance of the fact that there are some authorities in China whose business would be to determine on application whether a charge would be registered or not.

His Lordship—That does not advance your proposition in the least. Supposing there were none, you must treat the question precisely as you would supposing this was a charge on land in England.

Mr. Pollock—I submit not. It seems to us that the question is whether this Court can assume jurisdiction. If the Bank cannot prove they took those deeds and took them with all the necessary authorities, then, of course, the Bank's claim cannot be maintained. The Bank's position all through is, as it were, an inroad on the title of the plaintiff.

His Lordship—I think the matter falls within the jurisdiction.

Mr. Slade then opened the plaintiff's case. He said the plaintiff was a Chinese gentleman, a scholar of very high attainments and a very successful business man. For some five years, from about 1890 to 1895, he was the farmer of the Waising lottery in the Province of Kwang, tung under concession from the Viceroy of the Two Kwang provinces. Toward the end of that concession, which was for five years, plaintiff was desirous of going north on business, and he entered into an arrangement with seven men—all of whom were men of position and all of whom were reputed to be wealthy men—that they would act as his agents on certain terms for the completion of the then existing lottery concession, and, further, they were to apply for, and work in conjunction with himself, a concession which they hoped to obtain for the next period of six years. On the expiry in the end of 1895 of his term, his agents, the Wang Fung Co., applied for the new concession, but without success. It was granted to two merchants who, after working it for about a year, failed, and in 1896 the Wang Fung Co. obtained the concession of these lotteries for a period of seven years, which expired in June, 1904. In the concession in which he was farmer plaintiff owned the whole of the property and

the capital employed in the carrying on of this firm, but the whole of this property was left in the hands of his agents for the purpose of carrying on the second term which he hoped to obtain.

The hearing was adjourned.

Thursday, September 10th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

AN INTRICATE QUESTION.

William Barker and Co. sued the China Express Co., the claim being for the delivery of 10 bags of fire bricks ex the steamer "Indiana," the property of the plaintiff, which was wrongfully detained by the defendants, or, in the alternative, the value of such bricks, \$120. The plaintiffs also claimed the expenses of transferring the bricks to their destination, incurred through defendants wrongfully landing the same.

Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell (appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon (of Mr. R. A. Harding's office) for the defendants.

Mr. Morrell said that in April last his client ordered two sets of fire bricks from a New York firm, which were to be shipped to him here. The Company in New York apparently employed a firm of freight contractors to ship these goods, and the next thing his client knew was that he had received bill of lading from New York, together with a draft for \$50. The bill of lading stated that application for delivery was to be made to the China Express Co. That was the first plaintiffs had heard of them, as they had never dealt with them before. When plaintiffs applied for delivery they received an invoice charging \$98 freight and \$17.50, defendants' charges; that was, \$10 for landing expenses and \$7.50 for their commission. People not connected with the contract at all were endeavouring to make plaintiffs pay commission. Plaintiffs sent round objecting to pay, and defendants withdrew the first bill and sent in a reduced bill for \$12.50, which plaintiffs still refused to pay. The defendants then refused to deliver the goods, thereby compelling plaintiffs to bring this action. They were fighting on principle, because they would not be "squeezed." They had tendered a freight of \$98.65 on the goods, which were valued to \$120, which defendants refused to accept. He did not know how this freight was arrived at. In the ordinary way the goods should have been landed in the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co.'s godown and plaintiffs would have taken delivery of them. This had happened several times before, and defendants had always made a charge which they paid under protest. Plaintiffs gave them notice at the same time that they would not have the defendants handling their goods. When defendants gave them notice they were prepared to take delivery.

Mr. Dixon wished to take a preliminary objection. This was an action for a specific delivery of chattels.

His Lordship—The property or its value?

Mr. Dixon—It is the same objection as was taken here the other day.

His Lordship—That is an extraordinary proposition. It is not an equitable claim at all; it is a legal claim.

William Barker said he traded as William Barker and Co., electrical and mechanical engineers and contractors. In April he ordered fifty sets of fire bricks from a New York firm, for which he paid \$50 gold. He ordered them to be shipped to him. In due course he received a bill of lading and a draft for them. Then he received a bill from the China Express Co. claiming \$17.50. He returned it informing them that they had special instructions never to handle his goods. Witness received a second invoice, with a chit attached. Defendants always penalised him, asking how they were to run their office if they did not make any charges. He had tendered the freight charges but defendants refused to accept it.

Cross-examined—The China Express Co. were not entitled to get anything from him. Witness only held the through bill of lading; he supposed the China Express Co. held the other.

Mr. Dixon said he intended to raise the point that the freight should have been paid into Court. It was a condition precedent of the whole thing that freight should not only be tendered, but paid into Court and pleaded. Supposing his Lordship gave judgment for defendant, the plaintiff might be bankrupt.

His Lordship—I could easily make a conditional order.

Mr. Dixon—We have got the bill of lading and the goods, and if we refuse to give them up we can only be sued by the New York firm.

His Lordship—Whose property are they?

Mr. Dixon—The people in New York.

His Lordship—They have been paid for.

Mr. Dixon—We have had no notice of that. I still take the point that they cannot succeed unless they pay the money into Court.

Mr. Morrell—We can pay it on delivery of the goods.

E. F. Aucott, shipping clerk in the office of Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co., said when freight was prepaid they delivered the goods to the consignee whose name was on the bill of lading. If not prepaid, they were instructed to collect before giving delivery.

S. D. Hickie, manager of the China Express Co., stated that he received plaintiffs' through bill of lading, together with instructions to collect. Other people applied for their goods with payment of charges, but Mr. Barker did not. Knowing that he always made trouble about landing charges, witness sent him notice to take delivery from the Kowloon godowns the day after the ship arrived. Had he taken delivery then there would have been only a commission charge of \$5. If the goods were damaged, witness was the only person who could claim against the ship. After receiving notice plaintiff refused to take the goods. Witness now claimed commission and expenses of removing the goods to the Company's godown, altogether \$12.50.

Cross-examined—When the goods were in Kowloon witness forwarded plaintiff an estimate of the amount it would cost to land them in Hongkong?

Mr. Morrell—How could you send an estimate?

Witness—It's the custom.

Mr. Morrell—A very improper custom. You're consignee, are you not?—Yes.

And your instructions are to pay all charges—To collect them.

You are consignee when it suits you, and when you are not it does not?—That's the way you put it.

Did you tell Mr. Barker's shroff that you were not paid by him and would take no orders from him?—I told him I was not employed by him and did not wish to land his goods.

His Lordship said he would take time to consider the question of custom, which was a rather intricate one, and adjourned the case *sine die*.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK SUED.

The action was continued in which Lau Man Cho, otherwise Lau Hok Shun took proceedings to recover from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 34 title deeds which, plaintiff alleged, were his property, and were wrongfully detained by the defendants.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiff, while the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the defendants.

Mr. Pollock, in opening the defence, said they did not seek to hold the plaintiff as a partner in the Wang Fung firm liable on the ground that he must be liable if he signed the bills of exchange, but on separate and independent grounds altogether. The grounds on which they sought to hold the plaintiff liable were that he was an undisclosed principal, and that the proceeds of these bills, which were sold by the drawers of the different bills to the defendants had in fact reached the coffers of the Wang Fung firm, in which firm the plaintiff was a partner. His Lordship would see that the grounds of the Bank's claim

against, say, the Wing Shing Loong and the Lai Hing firms, were entirely separate and distinct from the grounds of their claim against the plaintiff as a partner in the Wang Fung. It was not sought to make the plaintiff liable in this case on the ground that certain signatures which appeared as drawers on bills of exchange must be taken as being equivalent to his signatures. It was a question of their being separate and distinct ground of liability altogether. For instance, there was absolutely no connection at all of any description between the ground of liability as between the defendants and the drawers of the bills and the ground of liability with which the defendants sought to charge the plaintiff as a partner in the Wang Fung on the ground that the proceeds of the bills reached the coffers of the Wang Fung. The defendants had obvious grounds of action against both parties, such grounds being entirely independent of one another. The ground of making the plaintiff liable was that the Wang Fung firm, in which he was a partner, had had the benefit of these monies. The remedies could be pursued absolutely concurrently against the drawers of the bills and against the plaintiff as a partner in the Wang Fung. There would not be anything impossible in one action being brought against them both.

Mr. Slade—I quite admit that, after the point of agency is absolutely abandoned. The defendants could agree possibly to bring an action, but it is equally certain they would not succeed.

Mr. Pollock said that, although a partner used the name of a firm without the authority of his co-partners in borrowing money and applying such money in paying off the debts of the firm, an action would lie. In this case there was authority to draw bills, and that authority was given to the plaintiff.

The hearing was again adjourned.

Friday, September 11th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

INTERESTING SALVAGE CLAIM.

His Lordship gave his award in the case in which Chun Tak Leong and Co. sued Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and the China Navigation Co. Ltd., their claim being for \$10,833 held by defendants as payment for services rendered in connection with the stranding of the s.s. "Akashi Maru."

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendants being represented by Sir Henry Berkeley K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master).

His Lordship first read the questions he placed before the Assessors, and then their answers. The questions, which are each followed by an answer, were:—

1. Was the "Akashi Maru" in a position of extreme peril both with regard to the vessel, the cargo and the persons on board when she was on the North Merope Shoal, and when the salvaging operations, the subject matter of this action, were undertaken by the "Yochow" and those on board her?

Answer:—Yes, with regard to ship and cargo; but with regard to the passengers they were in peril, but not extreme peril.

His Lordship—It is suggested by both Assessors that the boats could have got with moderate ease to the shore four miles off, to leeward, with wind and tide, and could have made a second journey coasting up and then dropping down to the wreck, the weather then improving. The people would have landed on shore about fifteen miles as the crow flies from Amoy, or, with improving weather, one boat could have been sent round for assistance. The signal "we are sinking" was hoisted, but there does not seem to have been any immediate peril of her breaking up.

2. In her manoeuvres to take up the position she did to the leeward of the shoal, did the "Yochow" run any risk which would not have been incidental to the continuance of her voyage to Hongkong, having specially in view that she had two lighters in tow? If the answer is in the affirmative, what degree of extra risk did she incur?

Answer.—It was not high sea. It could not have been high sea. But we are of opinion that the weather was not in any sense bad weather, but ordinary fresh monsoon weather with a fresh, strong breeze and—in the comparatively sheltered position of the salvage operation—a moderately rough sea. But there was some extra risk incurred in approaching within one quarter mile of a dangerous reef with a small scale chart.

3. The same questions are repeated with regard to the period during which she remained at anchor in that position bearing in mind her special manoeuvres of making a lee-side to enable the boats from the "Akashi" to put the people on board the "Yochow" with greater safety?

Answer.—No extra danger at anchor. In case of tide turning she would have weighed and anchored further off.

4. In connection with questions 2 and 3, Was there at any time, and if so, at what time, any cause for anxiety to the captain of the "Yochow" in regard to the safety of his own vessel and tow?

The Assessors were of the opinion that the manoeuvre of rounding head to sea and coming to an anchor performed by the "Yochow," while naturally attended with a certain amount of anxiety and risk in making a long sweep round on comparatively narrow waters was not—when executed with promptitude and skill—one of absolute danger to life or property on either the "Yochow" or her tow. That this manoeuvre and the subsequent proceedings of salvage in handling the "Yochow" and getting the passengers, specie and boats safely on board the "Yochow" were executed with an admirable degree of seamanlike promptitude and skill.

5. Was there any, and if so what, special exertion required on the part of those who went from the "Yochow" on the first or second journeys to the "Akashi" to rescue the people on board of her:—(a) In getting away from the "Yochow"; (b) During the journey to and fro; (c) In getting alongside, and while they were alongside the "Akashi"?

Answer.—Not (a) as the boats were on the lee side; (b) Very arduous both ways; (c) Special exertion.

6. The same question, with the word "peril" substituted for "special exertion"?

Answer.—There was peril, but not extreme peril in (b) owing to overloading, and (c) same, but no peril in (a). While the last two journeys of the "Akashi's" lifeboat manned by members of the "Yochow" crew were attended with the risk which is always attached to boat work on even a moderate sea, and especially approaching the lee side of a wrecked vessel, and were extremely exhausting, and were courageously and skillfully performed, the facts as presented do not warrant the assumption that the crews were at any time in unusual peril of their lives.

His Lordship said he agreed with the Assessors on the evidence as to salvage. They had a consultation and arrived at their decision on practically independent estimates. On these findings the case did not seem to him to come within measurable distance of a case where one half of the property had been given for salvage work. He had therefore to award a liberal reward for services rendered as defined by the foregoing answer. With regard to the boat's crews for special services the award would be \$1,000:—the chief officer, two journeys, \$500; two sub officers, one journey each \$150; crew, including the passenger who rowed, and he thought one of the crew of the "Akashi" who rowed, \$200; those who went both journeys to get two shares. The number was not quite certain, but he thought they could be ascertained. That was about \$10 to \$12 per man each journey, or nearly a day's pay. The captain and crew for general service were awarded \$1,500, the captain to have \$500 and the officers and crew \$1,000 pro rata, the chief officers and other deck officers to rank according to their respective grades. The bravery question having been disposed of, the only question was as to the risk to the ship and the delay. He had to take into consideration the fact that some of the consignees had been paid half value. The Assessors were of opinion that \$2,500 for the services would be very ample. Reducing this to \$1,500 the owners would

still get more than that amount. The award he would make was \$4,000 which the Assessors considered very liberal. Of this the plaintiffs would pay their proportion, which could be worked out. He was of opinion that the detention of the treasure was unlawful, and that the damages must be equivalent to the sum which the interest would amount to at eight per cent on the quantity of treasure of the plaintiffs retained. One point had not been argued. The captain of the "Akashi" was the real salvor of the treasure. It was clear that the crews from their own story could not have salvaged it, and if the treasure had not been salvaged there would have been no action. The assessors agreed with him in thinking that the captain of the "Akashi" ought to receive some recognition of his services. He did not think he had power to include him in the award, but if the parties agreed he proposed to increase the award by \$500 for the captain of the "Akashi" making it in all \$4,500.

Mr. Slade moved for judgment. On recovery of the treasure they would pay the amount.

Sir Henry Berkeley submitted that what should be done was to deprive the salvors of their costs. They should not be made to pay costs, the effect of which would be to deprive them of all award. The question of costs was one entirely in the discretion of the Court, and he submitted that in a case of this kind the costs of all parties should be borne out of the fund.

Mr. Slade—It is our fund, therefore they would be borne by us.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The fund happens to be their property, but the costs should be borne out of it, as but for our exertions it would have been lost. In the circumstances, if we have to pay the costs we get nothing.

Mr. Slade—The question of tender, of course, will be taken into account. We made a formal tender which, according to your Lordship's judgment, has been held to be ample. They did not merely demand a little more, but they demanded something like three times the amount. The question of tender was one of peculiar importance in comparison with their demand. His Lordship would bear in mind that any payment of costs, as his learned friend ingeniously put it, out of the fund, would mean by them, as it was their money.

His Lordship entered formal judgment for plaintiffs and reserved his decision on the question of costs.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

CLAIM FOR OVER \$300,000.

His Lordship delivered a lengthy judgment in the case in which the Imperial Bank of China sued Leung Shui Kong to recover \$346,045.65, money due and compound interest at a rate of eight per cent at half-yearly rates upon the various items composing the claim.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) the defendants.

His Lordship, in the course of his judgment, remarked that the peculiar features of this case continued down to the very end. The bank had a considerable number of securities of Leung King Wo's in their hands, and they had not set off the proceeds of such as had been sold against the claim, nor had they offered to do so, though there were a certain number of dividend warrants in the list. What they had done was this: they had got a liquidation account made out against Leung King Wo (deceased) and had performed a series of transformations by adding to the two overdrawn accounts (\$45,747.79 and \$9,472.42) a series of other amounts transferred from other accounts, and had utilised the proceeds in hand by setting them off against these. These other items came within his Lordship's ruling as to the non-reception of evidence, but they were not set upon; for the debit of that account was \$120,623.37, and the only explanation was that if these accounts were what they professed to be, this amount should have been set for. But as it was not, there must be so much uncertainty about them or the claim, that they were not what they seemed to be. The credits from realisation of Leung King Wo's property must therefore be set against the claim. The argument based on the doctrine of appropriation was not put for-

ward with regard to this, nor could it have been. The only thing that could be ordered, therefore, was an account in which the credits, which were properly Leung King Wo's credits, would be set against the amounts of the two items of claim. He had looked through the accounts with Mr. Cobden, and they had been unable to trace any account of commission to which Leung King Wo would have been entitled. His guarantor must have the benefit of them, if they could be ascertained. With regard to the benefit of securities they also must be sold, and the proceeds brought to credit. Mr. Shung said he valued the scrip remaining in the hands of the bank at between 15,000 and 18,000 taels. His Lordship did not know how this could be so, seeing that they admitted that they held, for example, 290 shares in the bank itself on account of Leung King Wo's estate, although these appeared to stand in different people's names. He had power to order the sale of the shares comprised in exhibit 62 because the matter had been brought within his jurisdiction, and he, therefore, so ordered. But he had no power to order the disposal of any balance remaining in favour of Leung King Wo's estate, nor of any shares remaining unsold. He was of opinion, however, that all the costs incurred by the defendant in the action should be paid out of the proceeds, if any remaining, and he so ordered. Judgment would be for the defendant on items 1, 2 and 5; and an order would be made for an account to be taken with regard to items 3 and 4.

These items were:—

1. \$186,998.85, the balance standing to the credit of the current account of the new Coast Defence Subscription office, which balance the plaintiff was compelled to pay to that office, and the said sum had been wholly lost to the plaintiff.

2. \$10,606.79, the balance standing to the credit of the current account of the Telegraph Commercial Office.

3. \$65,444.75, claimed as admitted by Leung King Wo, in a secret book of account which he caused to be kept for his own private purposes, to have been due and owing by him to the plaintiff.

4. \$13,550.82, claimed on the same ground as item 3.

5. \$69,444.44, which (in the form of 50,000 Shanghai taels) was advanced to Leung King Wo by the head office for the purpose of being used as capital in the Tientsin branch. This was claimed because it was subsequently appropriated by Leung King Wo to his own private purposes.]

His Lordship said, with regard to the costs of the action, that the defendant was entitled to them except with regard to items 3 and 4. In that case, as it would be quite impossible to arrive at the amount of costs properly attributable to these two items, his Lordship ordered that in the event of anything being found due by the defendant to the plaintiffs upon them, the Registrar would report to him what lump sum would be sufficient to award to the plaintiff in respect of these two items, treating them as one item.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BISHOP HOARE MEMORIAL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]—

September 7th:

SIR,—We shall be glad if you will allow us, through your columns, to inform the subscribers to the above Memorial that the window which it has been decided to place in the South Transept of St. John's Cathedral, in memory of the late Bishop Hoare, is now in course of erection.

At the request of the Memorial Committee, His Excellency Sir Frederick D. Lugard, K.C.M.G., has kindly consented to unveil the window. The ceremony will take place during the usual morning service (at 11 a.m.) on Sunday, 20th inst., the Sunday nearest to the second anniversary of the Bishop's death, which took place in the typhoon of September 18th, 1906.

We are, &c.,

J. M. ATKINSON,
G. A. BURBURY,
F. T. JOHNSON.

Hon. Secretaries, Bishop Hoare Memorial Committee.

HONGKONG.

There were only two cases of bubonic plague reported during last week. Both were fatal. There was one Japanese and two Chinese fatal cases of cholera and two European cases of enteric fever, one proving fatal.

A Chinese shopkeeper, residing at 40 Peel Street, reports that on September 5th a leather bag containing jewellery to the value of \$3,270 was stolen from his house. An amah was suspected and she is under arrest.

The extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during the month of August show that the average maximum temperature was 87.3 degrees, and the average minimum temperature 78.5 degrees. The rainfall for the month totalled 12.65 inches, and there were 219.9 hours of sunshine.

A few days ago Mr. J. J. Stubbings, an engineer in the employ of the Electric Light Company, discovered the body of a child behind the works. It had a tape tied round its neck. As it was still alive he untied the tape and summoned the police who had the child, which was only about six days old, removed to the French Convent. The police succeeded in tracing the mother who was placed before the magistrate on Sept. 7 on a charge of attempted murder.

On September 4th the Venerable Archdeacon Banister presided at a meeting of the Hongkong Church Missionary Society held by kind permission of Mr. A. Bryer at his residence "Tanderagee," the Peak. After tea, addresses were given by Miss L. Bryer and Miss H. R. Rodd of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, both of whom have been engaged for several years in missionary work in the Province of Fukien. There was much gaudience which followed with interest the remarks of the speakers.

It is worthy of note that Mr. C. J. Cooke, who swam from Kowloon Dook to Blake Pier on September 7th, lowered Messrs. McBride and Wilson's time by 18 minutes, the time taken by the former swimmer being 50 minutes, while the latter took 68 minutes to cover the distance. In the swim across the harbour, likewise, Barros and Alves were successful in lowering the time of the previous winner of the "China Mail" cup (Gr. Brotherton), by nearly two minutes. Brotherton completed the distance and won the race in 1906 in 27 minutes 42-4/5 seconds, while in the practice swim on Monday night Messrs. Alves and Barros crossed the harbour in 26 minutes.

The returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st August, 1908, as certified by the managers of the respective banks is as follows:—

Banks.	Average Specie in Amount. Reserve.	
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China...	3,765,479	2,800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	14,594,184	10,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	168,230	36,000

Total \$11,467,893 12,836,000

Constable Taylor, who has served with the Hongkong Force for about eighteen months, died in the Government Civil Hospital on Thursday night, it is believed from sunstroke. On Sept. 23rd deceased was on duty at the Canton wharf, and when his time was up he went to No. 5 Police Station to see P. C. 93, with whom he was to take a trip to Shataukok on the following day. While sitting on a bed he fell to the floor. When his friend picked him up he began to vomit, and then gradually became unconscious. It was not long before that he appeared to revive, and then he was given a bottle of soda water, which he drank. After this he again collapsed, and became so violent that it took a number of men to hold him. He was strapped to an ambulance and removed to hospital, but the efforts of the doctors were unavailing and he passed away on the night mentioned. He was interred in the Happy Valley cemetery last night, a number of members of the Police Force and many Masons attending to pay their last tribute of respect. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Hickling.

A brass tablet to the memory of the late Mr. William Ramsay, for many years superintendent for the Scottish Oriental Navigation Company, and later superintendent engineer for Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, has been placed in St. Peter's Church.

A test case of interest to the shipping community was heard at the Magistracy on Sept. 8 before Mr. Kemp. The compradore of the s.s. "Kwong Sai" was summoned for failing to stamp a cargo receipt and, pleading guilty, was fined \$50. It was stated that according to the usual practice the compradore instead of affixing a stamp had merely chopped the shippers' book on receiving the cargo. In this instance the cargo consisted of treasure and the freight paid was only fifty cents. Mr. Denny, from the Crown Solicitor's office, appeared to prosecute.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—Some demands having come forward, the prices are slightly advancing.

Quotations are:—		
Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.70	to \$4.75
" Round, Good quality ..	4.90	to 5.00
" Long	5.00	to 5.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2...	4.70	to 4.80
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	4.85	to 4.90
" White	4.95	to 5.00
" Fine Cargo	5.50	to 5.60

SUGAR.

YOKOHAMA, 31st August.—The importation of refined remains at a standstill.

Kobe, 1st September.—Beet.—A little weaker. Cane.—Raw.—The Market continues lifeless. Muscovados Basis Polarisation 96 per cent. colour average 12½ is quoted at Yen 5.85/5.95 per picul ex ship. Osaka Refined.—The Osaka Refinery held there auction on the 23rd instant when 5,100 Bags were put up for sale. 4,100 Bags were sold at unchanged prices, while 1,000 Bags were withdrawn.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, September 12th.

Quotations are:—		
Malwa New	\$1060/1080	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1090/1100	do.
Malwa Older	\$1110/1120	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1130/1140	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$920	do.
Patna New	\$1145	per chest.
Patna Old	do.	do.
Benares New	\$1100	do.
Benares Old	\$1090	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 4th September 1908, states:—The market during the interval has shown no change, there being very little encouragement to sellers to part with their goods at present unsatisfactory prices, even those that have only recently arrived failing to realise covering cost. The country, in spite of the favourable crop prospects throughout the greater part, does not respond, notwithstanding stocks in most places must be at a very low ebb. China is in a transition state, and unfortunately the progressives are finding the greatest obstruction to their ideas in the Capital itself. The old conservative spirit of many of the highest officials there is still predominant, and blocks the way of all reforms those outside of that sleepy hollow are anxious and ready to adopt, and thus nothing really drastic in the way of a change from old custom can be effected, and what new enterprises that have been started are being stifled owing to the want of expansion and co-operation, brought about by the procrastination and supineness of the Central Government. It is true fine buildings in foreign style of architecture are going up in the International Settlement here intended for the occupation of the newly established Government

Banks, it is said, so it is to be hoped that some real effort is to be made at last to reform the chaotic state in which the currency of the country, if it can be called that, has been allowed to drift into. That is actually the first thing to be done before business can be put on a proper footing again. The very favourable weather conditions of the past week have been most beneficial to the crops and everything looks as promising as possible for a good Autumn trade, but is Shanghai going to enjoy that once more, or be doomed to the disappointment that has been her fate the last five or six years? It is a serious question, for if the answer is in the negative it means that already expensive goods will have to be held over to compete in the Spring with fresh supplies made from Cotton costing 30 to 40% less money in all probability to say nothing of other incumbrances. The almost entire absence of business during the interval, even with second hand holders, has been most marked, and leaves no clue as to the state of the markets at the Outports. Clearances have been fair, though nothing to enthuse about, as some Importers seem inclined to do, possibly only owing, however, to the many lean months they have had of late years. The Korean steamer last week took rather more than was expected, and reports from that country concerning trade are very favourable. The position of Manchester market is puzzling the trade here, and for the most part the tendency is to hold off. Some business has been effected, however, counter-offer at fair reductions being accepted rather unexpectedly. The situation in which Manufacturers now find themselves with the drop in forward rates for Cotton accounts for this and is making them anxious to dispose of their stock holdings. The probably tainted reports of damage in some districts to the crops in the States caused a temporary reaction for American Cotton in Liverpool, where Middling was quoted 5.44d. but it rapidly fell back to 5.23d. for spot and 4.86d. for September "futures". Egyptian has dropped another eighth to 7½d. The Export of Plain Cottons from Manchester keeps surprisingly large, being 33 million yards for last month in spite of all expectations of a lesser quantity. It is reported that negotiations have been going on between this market and New York for quite a fair quantity of standard goods in stock there, on the basis of 11s. 6d. for the best 2.85 yard make (Pacolet and Buck's) and 9s. 10½d. for 3 yard (Abbeville). It seems almost incredible that this business can have been done seeing that similar goods can be readily brought from stock on this market, not in hundreds but thousands of bales, at a great deal cheaper prices! The Cotton market in New York is about on a parity with Liverpool, namely:—8.52 cents for October, 8.42 cents for December and 8.29 cents for January option. The Government report of the condition of the crop on 25th August is 76.1, against 72.7 last year and 77.3 and 84.1 in 1906 and 1904 respectively, the years of the two bumper crops. The Yarn market is in a somewhat depressed state, most holders, both foreign and native, being anxious to quite their stocks. There is very little doing in either Japanese or Local spinnings, but clearances of all kinds are keeping up very well. A sufficient rain fall has caused a considerable improvement in the growing Cotton crop, but the early advent of cool nights may not be so beneficial to the plants in their present state. We have told of a small business in Manchester goods from stock at prices which show about 5% loss. These were spring purchases and so practically without carrying charges. A few retail transactions in Fancy goods, but not at fancy prices, have all gone through, but taken altogether the market is showing as much apathy as ever. It is hoped that the improvement promised after the settling day, next week, will really come about, for the air of depression that now pervades the mercantile circles of Shanghai is becoming worse and worse, and the prevailing topic is the basis on which fresh business is to be carried on in future. The indiscriminate booking of orders without security or margins, and frequently without the slightest knowledge of the antecedents of the buyer, must be stopped and some sounder system adopted, that all agree, but the question is what is to be the system? That should be a subject for debate amongst Importers, and Bankers, for the latter cannot countenance the slipshod manner in which the trade has been carried on in recent years. At the Ewo Auction this morning fairly steady to firm prices were paid for the well known chops of 8.4-lbs. and 12 lbs. Grey Shirtings, but the 10 lbs. makes went at rather weaker rates. White Shirtings were steady, T-Cloths, Drills and Sheetings firm, but Jeans not so. The quantities in most cases are too small to be any real criterion of the market. The general appearance of Wool-lens at the Auctions during the interval has been decidedly firmer.

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

Foochow, 28th August, 1906.—During the week the following settlements have taken place: Congou, 1,390 half chests; Souchong, 1,582 half chests. This season's stocks comprise 58,580 half chests Congou, 15,882 half chests Souchong, 15,942 half chests Oolong, 589 boxes scented teas and 294 chests Pekoe.

Amoy, 31st August.—Export of tea from Amoy and Formosa since 1st August, 9,944,633 lbs of Tamsui Oolong to the United States as against 9,594,001 lbs for the same time last year; 382,535 lbs to London as against 180,075 lbs last year; and 87,841 lbs to various places as against 73,565 lbs last year.

HANKOW, Sept. 3rd.—Business reported since the 27th inst., is as are:—

	1908.	1907.
Settlements ...	1-Chests. 8,511	1-Chests. 8,970

Consisting of the following Teas:—

	1-Chests.	per picul
Ningchows.....	1,733 at Tls. 18.50	—
Oopacks.....	527 " 12.00	10.75
Oonams.....	803 " 14.00	11.00
Oofas.....	448 " 18.25	12.00

The following are Statistics at date compared with those of 6th September, 1907:—

	1908.	1907.
HANKOW TEA	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	535,203	481,548
Shipments to Shanghai		
on Native account...	50,000	4,900
Stock ...	46,860	25,689

	1908.	1907.
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	180,853	181,816
Shipments to Shanghai		
on Native account...	15,335	—
Stock ...	5,024	16,069
Arrivals ...	632,063	512,137

	1908.	1907.
Comparative Quotations per picul are as under:—		
Ningchows Tls. 15.50 at 100.00	Tls. 16.60 at 100.00	
Khemuns... " 21.00 " 67.00	" 18.50 " 74.00	
Hohows... " 19.00 " 24.50	" — " —	
Kutoans... " 22.50 " 27.00	" 21.50 " 25.50	
Wenchows... " 19.50 " 21.00	" — " —	
Oopacks!... " 10.25 " 26.00	" 11.75 " 27.00	
Oonams... " 9.25 " 28.00	" 11.00 " 28.00	
Oonfas... " 12.00 " 36.00	" 11.60 " 35.75	
Seangtams... " 8.75 " 18.50	" 11.40 " 17.30	
Ichangs... " 22.00 " 65.00	" 25.00 " 63.00	

The export to 31st instant, as per Customs Returns stands thus:

	Hankow.	Kiukiang.
Season 1908-1909...lbs.	13,972,073	4,470,283
" 1907-1908... " "	12,304,193	5,498,620
" 1906-1907... " "	15,519,487	5,567,702

	1908/9	1907/8	1906/7
Via Shanghai,	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
To Great Britain.....	2,173,600	2,384,395	2,944,219
" U. S. & Canada ...	5,744,999	3,649,051	2,067,704
" Continent	2,594,881	2,221,917	1,842,167
" Russia via North..	105,443	9,511	154,677
" Russia in Europe,	564,099	5,520,253	8,783,525
" Shanghai.....	6,671,587	2,586,432	5,236,307
Direct, 1908,			
U. S.	472,576 lbs.		
Gr. Britain	3,793,659		
Continent	867,332		
Russia in Europe...	5,433,132		
Russia in Asia ...	22,324,928		

SILK.

YOKOHAMA, 31st August.—During the period since the 17th instant a good business has been done in raw silk at steady and in some instances at slightly higher prices than last quoted. At the close things are again easier. The stock of waste silk is gradually increasing, and the market is slightly easier. A certain quantity of Waste has been taken by Native Mills, but for export transactions are very small. The excess of shipments over settlements is accounted for by stocks held over from last season by foreign exporters.

HABULAI.—The market for Kanazawa has been remarkably steady and firm throughout the month of August, a slight weakening tendency being noticeable towards the close. The demand from both America and Europe has been unimportant. Echizen showed an extraordinary advance in six and six and a half momme during the month, doubtless due to the necessity for fulfilling contracts for August shipment. All grades, however, show a downward tendency at the end of the month, the demand from all quarters having declined. The neglect of demand in Kawamatas continues, but whereas 20 are firmer, 36 are slightly weaker.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—The price is advancing holders being firm. Quotations are \$86.00 to \$87.00.

KOBE MARKET

Kobe, 1st Sept.—Cotton.—American.—Price of "forward" Cotton have heavily declined since our last report, owing to favourable conditions and the anticipation of heavy crops this season. Latest quotation for Middling October shipment is given at Y. 30.00. Business, however, is quite nominal. "Spot" is quiet, Middling being quoted at Y. 29.25. Indian.—The weak tendency of American Cotton has prohibited any business of importance being done in "forward." "Spot" is nominal at following rates:—Broach Y. 25.75; Akola Khamguam Y. 22.00; Bengal Y. 21.50. Chinese.—A fairly large business has been done, in "forward" at Y. 25.25 to Y. 25.50 for "best" quality. "Spot" is quiet. Rates are:—"Best" Y. 28.00; "Common" Y. 22.00. Shirtings.—Clearance are moderate, spot prices low, and for forward arrival still lower. Very little new business is to be recorded. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Manchester [prices are lower and a few small orders have been booked at cheap rates. Worsteds and Woollens.—Deliveries of Winter goods as going on slowly, prices in Osaka are still very low. Metals.—Unchanged.—Rice.—Market weak.

EXPORTS

Kobe, 1st Sept.—Tea.—Settlements to date amount, to Piculs 40,000, against Piculs 62,500 to the same date last year. Copper.—Refiner unwilling to sell at the equivalent of Home parties. Fish Oil.—A large business has been done in Herring Oil. Rice.—To-day being "Nihyaku Toka" large fluctuations may be looked for in accordance with the state of the weather during the next 10 days until "nihyaku hatsuka." Cotton Yarn.—The market is weaker, prices have declined. Vegetable Wax.—Dealers firm in consequence of bad reports about the new berry crop. Matting.—Prices have been a trifle easier during the past few days. The demand for supplies has been fairly steady. Straw Braid.—Prices were a little easier during the past fortnight, and a slightly weaker tendency was noticeable. Chip Braid.—A good enquiry continued, the market closing firm with upward tendency.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

YOKOHAMA, 31st August.—There is no demand. Prices have declined Y10 to Y20 per bale. Cotton Piece Goods.—Some business has been transacted in Grey Shirtings and Cambrics from stock, but every sale shows a further decline in value. Some "forward" business is reported, but at very low prices. Textiles Generally.—Deliveries show some improvement. Raw Cotton.—The recent drop in prices has induced spinners to place part of their requirements of the new crop; this, however, relates almost exclusively to American produce, other countries being rather neglected. Rice.—There is no change to report. Metals.—Very quiet at present, but the outlook is more hopeful. Window Glass.—Conditions remain the same as last reported. Kerosine.—Arrivals and deliveries for the second half of August show, Standard Oil Co.: arrivals 229,000 cases, deliveries 5,000 cases; Rising Sun Petroleum Co.: arrivals "nil," deliveries 5,000 units. Flour.—No change. Wheat.—No change.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per P. & O. steamer, Delhi, sailed on 5th Sept. For New York:—15 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—264 bales waste silk. For Barcelona:—15 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—20 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—175 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—480 bales waste silk, 70 bales raw silk, 3 bales punjum silk, 1 case embroideries. For London:—1,653 packages tea, 450 bales waste silk, 70 bales raw silk, 6 packages silk goods, 3 cases cigars, 4 packages personal effects.

HANKOW, Sept. 3rd.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. —
Do. seconds	" —
Buffalo hides, best selected	" —
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Pochi	10.10
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	9.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	8.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Maoheng	10.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.00
Animal Tallow	12.80
Gallnuts, usual shape	15.25
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.25
Tobacco, Tinchow	" —
Tobacco, Woukang	" —
Black Bristles, Riflings	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	5.70
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	8.90
Tea Oil	" —

Per P. & O. steamer, Nyansa, sailed on 9th Sept. For Antwerp:—24 bales cane. For Glasgow:—30 cases tea. For Toulon:—4 bales cane. For Marseilles:—8, bales human hair, 2 cases hats groes. For London:—4717 cases preserves, 760 half-chest tea, 200 rolls matting, 186 cases china, ware, 250 cases Ginger, 29 cases wood furniture, 10 bales feathers 2 cases copperware, 1 case bambooware, 1 case machinery, 3 cases lemon essence, 6 cases iron flasks 4 dra. paint.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 11th September, 1908.—During the past week there has been a decided improvement in demand for many of our most favoured investment securities, and rates in many cases have advanced. Business on the whole also shows on improvement, but the volume is restricted by the reluctance of holders to meet the ideas of intending purchasers. Barislers in London is now quoted at 23½d., and Sterling T.T. at 1/9½. The T.T. rate on Shanghai has advanced to 75½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai under an unsatisfied demand have advanced rapidly from \$750 to \$762½, with small sales at these and intermediate rates and close in strong demand at the higher quotation. London has also improved and is now quoted at £80. Nationals continue in request at \$51 but without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been done at \$755, and can now be placed at the improved rate of \$760. There are buyers of North Chinas at Tls. 80, and of China Traders at \$86½. Yangtzes and Cantons are unchanged and no business has been transacted.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have advanced without sales to \$317½ buyers and Cinas to \$93½ buyers after a small sale of the latter at \$93.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are firmer with buyers at \$27½ after sales, at the rate. Indo-Chinas, China and Manilas and Douglas are neglected at quotations, and it is probable that the latter could be obtained at less than the quoted rate. Star Ferries (old) have been booked at \$24½, and (new) at \$15, the latter closing in further request. Shell Transports continue in request at 44s. but no shares appear available at the figure.

REFINERIES.—Quotations are unchanged and we have no business to report.

MINING.—Charbonnages continue in request at \$580. Raubs have been booked at \$7 and at the close supplies could probably be obtained at this rate. Chinese Engineerings can be placed at the improved rate of Tls. 16½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are again somewhat easier, and can now be procured at \$96. Kowloon Wharves have still further improved, and after sales at \$48 and \$49, are in further demand at the higher rate. New Amoy Docks, and

Shanghai Docks are unchanged, but Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have declined to Tls. 167½ sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—There is no business to report in this section, and quotations are unchanged. Humphrey's Estates are wanted at \$9, but holders are unwilling to part at this figure.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined to Tls. 59, but otherwise there is no change in quotations to report. Sales of Hongkongs have been effected at \$11.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bell's Asbestos have advanced to \$7½, and Electrics to \$17½, both with buyers. China Providents are wanted at \$9½, and Powell at \$4. Cements have again been done in fair quantities at \$10 and Ropes at \$24. Dairy Farms have been booked at \$19½ and can now be placed at \$20.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$762½, buyers
National B. of China	26	London 250
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$51, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	12	\$74, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$104, sellers
China Provident	\$1	\$64, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 59
Hongkong	\$10	\$11, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 242½
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$19½, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$49
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$96, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$94, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 167½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$185
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$17½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$80
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$231
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$24, sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$215, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$93½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$317½, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 80, buyers
Union	\$100	\$760, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$94, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
West Point Building	\$50	\$46
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$74
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$130, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38, sellers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$27½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$35
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$20
Star Ferry	\$10	44/- buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$24½, sales
South China M. Post.	\$5	\$15, sales & buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries.	\$5	\$54
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$4, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$3
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$4
Wismann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$124, x.d.
Do. Founders	\$10	\$230, x.d. buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$104, sellers

SMYTH, & VERNON & Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

14th September, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$770, buyers
National of China	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 80, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$167½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. }	210	Tls. 28½, buyers
Shell Trans. { def. }	21	Tls. 13½, buyers
S'hai Tug & { ord. }	10	\$25.0, sellers
Lighter { pref. }	T50	\$29.10, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 47, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 51, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 48, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	Tls. 50, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$105, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 170, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	\$47, sellers
China Refining	\$100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	21	Tls. 90, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	\$182½, sellers
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	\$3, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	Tls. 16, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	Tls. 116½, buyers
Wei-hai-wei	T25	\$99, sellers
China	T50	\$104, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	\$9, sellers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
International	T75	Tls. 61, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 64, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 85, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	Tls. 242½, sellers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	\$9, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 115, buyers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 51½, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 14, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 50, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	Tls. 55, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs. 100	\$11, sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 590, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	220	Tls. 97½, buyers
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	Tls. 395, ex div.
A. Butler Cement	50	\$85, buyers
Tile Works	50	\$30, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 56, sellers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	\$295.0, sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$20, sales
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$12, sellers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$21½, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$15, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 54, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$150, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	Tls. 42½, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 59, sellers
China Im. & Ex.	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Lumber	\$25	\$23, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Rep- ository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending September 8rd, 1908, states:— The market has again been dull for the past week with very little of interest to record. The only feature being a sharp rise in Langkats from Tls. 565 each to Tls. 585 cash, closing with buyers at this rate. The forward rates have gone up proportionately. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. There are now buyers of this stock at \$765 and exchange 73, with no shares offering. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—No business reported. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. This market is again dull. Transactions are reported at Tls. 172½ cash and Tls. 175 for September, but the market closed with sellers at Tls. 172½ for cash and forward delivery. Shanghai and Engineering Co. A transaction took place at Tls. 85 and the market closed with buyers at Tls. 84. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 116, but there are no sellers. A small lot changed hands at Tls. 116½. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. There is a fair demand for the bearer scrip of this Company and business has been recorded at Tls. 16.05 and Tls. 16. At the latter rate a fair number of bearer shares could be placed. Industrial.—Cotton Mills. No business has been reported this week, but there are shares on offer in all the Companies at quotations and shares could probably be obtained at lower rates. Shanghai Pulp and Paper Mills. A transaction is reported at Tls. 55. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co. This market is very firm with buyers at quotations or probably a little higher. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats. The market opened with transactions at Tls. 565 cash and Tls. 570 for September, after which there was a steady rise, and at the close there were buyers at Tls. 585 cash, Tls. 610 for December and Tls. 625 for March, with no sellers. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz shares have been dealt in at \$20, and Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 54. A further fall has taken place in Astor Houses, which are now on offer at \$16. There are no buyers above \$14½. Loans and Debentures.—A small lot of Waterworks Debentures changed hands at Tls. 108; and some Municipal Debentures were placed direct at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, September 14th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	223
Credits 4 months' sight	227½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	181
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133
Bank, on demand	133½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133
Bank on demand	133½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	87
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	76
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	106½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	104 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	104 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	85½
SWEDEN'S, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.15
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per taal	\$58.65
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$5.35 discount
	10 "	6.30 "
Hongkong	20 "	5.00 "
	10 "	5.10 "

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 3rd Sept.—Per Conference Steamers—
To London and Northern Continental ports 45/-
per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa,
Marseilles, or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus
river freight. To New York (via Suez) General
Cargo 80/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight.
To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40
cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland)
per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less
than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; plus
river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General
Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or
measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—ARRIVALS.

- 3, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
- 4, Bujun Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
- 4, Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Liangchow, Brit. str., from Newchwang.
- 4, Montana, American str., from Manila.
- 4, Stettin, British str., from Singapore.
- 4, Tean, British str., from Manila.
- 5, Capri, Italian str., from Singapore.
- 5, Gilbert, French str., from K. C. Wan.
- 5, Johanne, German str., from Swatow.
- 5, Kwangle, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
- 5, Myrmidon, British str., from Hankow.
- 6, Ajax, British str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
- 6, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
- 6, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 6, Kaga Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 6, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Fiume, German str., from Labuan.
- 7, Laertes, British str., from Liverpool.
- 7, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., from London.
- 7, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 8, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Hokuto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 8, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 8, Kotohira Maru, Jap. str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 8, Nyansa, British str., from Yokohama.
- 8, Signal, German str., from Swatow.
- 8, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Arratoon Apcar, British str., from Moji.
- 9, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 9, Derflinger, German str., from Yokohama.
- 9, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 9, Lutzow, German str., from Bremen.
- 9, Monteagle, British str., from Vancouver.
- 9, Slavonia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 10, Fitzpatrick, British str., from Penang.
- 10, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Inverclyde, British str., from New York.
- 10, Kinkiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Pera, British str., from Singapore.

September—DEPARTURES.

- 4, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 4, Lituania, Russian str., for Vladivostok.
- 4, Locksun, German str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Nanchang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Pheumpenh, British str., for Saigon.
- 4, Shaohsing, British str., for Ningpo.
- 4, Tjikini, Dutch str., for Batavia.
- 4, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
- 5, Benvenue, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 5, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
- 5, Delhi, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 5, E. of Japan, British str., for Vancouver.
- 5, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
- 5, Moyori Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 5, Ningchow, British str., for Vancouver, &c.
- 5, Stettin, British str., for Tientsin.
- 5, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 6, Arconia, Russian str., for Singapore.
- 6, Johanne, German str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 6, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
- 6, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Khivberg, German str., for K. C. Wan.
- 7, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.

- 8, Ajax, British str., for Singapore.
- 8, Bujun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 8, Chihli, British str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Gilbert, Fr. str., for Kwang Chow Wan.
- 8, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 8, Myrmidon, British str., for Singapore.
- 8, Namsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Onsang, British str., for Hakodate.
- 8, Prometheus, Norw. str., for Tourane.
- 8, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Yunnan, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Forest Dale, British str., for Samarang.
- 9, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
- 9, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
- 9, Kotohira Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 9, Laertes, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
- 9, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Niomedis, German str., for Keelung, &c.
- 9, Nyansa, British str., for Singapore.
- 9, Shibetoro Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.
- 9, Yatahing, British str., for Swatow.
- 10, Arnell, British str., for Newcastle.
- 10, Arratoon Apcar, Br. str., for Singapore.
- 10, Derflinger, German str., for Europe, &c.
- 10, Loyal, German str., for Saigon.
- 10, Lutzow, German str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Manila, Ger. str., for Manila & Australia.
- 10, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 10, Rajnar, German str., for Rajang.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Tean, from Manila, Mr and Mrs Eldridge and 2 children, Misses King and Bothus, Messrs. Durell, Skinner, Olsen, Wall, Bache, Sanderson and Frey.

Per Rubi, from Manila, &c., Mr and Mrs Wagner, Mr and Mrs Capen, Rev. and Mrs Johnston, Mrs Riggurey, Miss Delia Harris, Messrs. B. Howard, J. Cummings, Star and T. Haynes.

Per Haitan, from Coast Ports, Rev. and Mrs J. H. France and 4 children, Misses Thom (2), Misses Soleburg (2), Master and Miss Jenkins, Masters Smith (3), Master Palmer, Master Thompson, Master Thom, Rev. A. Sanger, and Mr Scatter.

Per Delhi, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr and Mrs McKracken, infant and 2 servants, Mr and Mrs Webb Anderson, infant and amah, Mrs M. Kelly, Messrs. G. J. Shekury, C. F. Lushington and servant, J. B. Guterez and Moutet; for Marseilles, Messrs. A. Campbell and Large; for Gibraltar, Mr and Mrs O. Gonnor; for London, Mr W. Grundy.

Per Nyansa, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs Lukis and child; from Foochow, Dr. E. C. Davenport; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Miss V. Thomas; for London, from Yokohama, Mrs Learmouth, Messrs. K. G. Stacy Hatfield and T. G. N. Bell; from Shanghai, Mrs Fenton and 4 children, Misses A. Roth and A. Hughes, Messrs. W. I. Tysack and E. I. Macdonald.

Per Kamakura Maru, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs M. Course, Miss K. Course, Messrs. V. Byrne and J. McCormack; for Kobe, Dr. and Mrs O. Krassler, Messrs. S. Iba and S. Tokumaru; for Yokohama, Messrs. H. J. Dressen, E. Wilson, Benn, F. Bloomfield, W. B. Bloomfield and Matoomul.

Per Kaga Maru, from Japan, &c., Mr and Mrs Butler, Mr and Mrs Caton, Mr and Mrs Hancock and child, Mrs Painter and child, Misses Bird, Pearce and Stewart, Dr. Neatherhead, Capt. B. A. Carbett, Messrs. Phillips, A. H. Sjvall, A. B. Sutherland, Rui, A. H. Craok, Frankfort, Y. Nakamura, C. O. Brown, R. E. P. Bird, Goldman, E. Fukao, Millicana, W. Ross and Manderson.

Per Siberia, from San Francisco via Ports, Mr and Mrs S. W. Ford, Mr and Mrs E. C. Jamieson, Mr and Mrs E. C. Wagner, Mr and Mrs N. C. Westcott, Mr and Mrs T. Ward and servant, Mrs H. Corrigan, Mrs J. B. Greene, Mrs V. B. Jamieson, Mrs G. H. Stone & maid, Mrs P. A. Templeton, Rev. E. Chute, Rev. F. W. Mottley, Lieut. W. G. Muldoon, U.S.A., Messrs. L. W. Abrone, F. Ashmore, F. Blodgett, H. C. Brownell, E. Chute, C. F. Diechmann, H. S. Everatt, C. Fink, G. S. Green, E. J. Halsema, R. W. Hasen, H. Hulen, C. L. Hoover, H. K. Kistler, B. Oberwinner, J. A. Pilgrim and servant, O. B. Spruit, O. Stolz, M. K. Vance and H. H. Westcott.

Per Monteagle, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Mr and Mrs J. Hess, Mr and Mrs Patton, Mr and Mrs Hall and 2 children, Mr and Mrs Spore and 3 children, Mr and Mrs Horst, Mrs C. C. McKee, Mrs L. Johnson, Mrs B. Levy, Mrs M. C. Blanchard, Mrs W. Johnson, Misses Patton, Charles, L. Sauer & Merriman, Messrs. J. J. Blake, Denby, S. Tealeman, F. Abele and Lebbey; from Yokohama, Misses Patterson, Darham and Carper; from Kobe, Mr C. C. McKee; from Nagasaki, Mr B. B. Fielder; from Shanghai, Mrs J. Pettengal, and Mr J. Allinson.

Per Lutzow, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Mrs E. F. Brodersen, Messrs. Geo. Compere, P. Heese, W. van Kpik, B. Kubitz, V. Tass and Chas. Harding; from Gibraltar, Mr and Mrs E. del Sas Orasco, and Miss Laura Escobedo de Bonape; from Genoa, Messrs. R. Scherer, Gots L. Wilson, Don José del Sas Orasco, J. Ruckanbrod and E. Wacke; from Colombo, Colonel and Mrs Eastwood; from Penang, Messrs. J. Murphy and J. Elmore; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Saroko, Mrs J. O. Downing and child, Mrs L. M. Clarke, Messrs. van de Stadt, O. Teenwissen, G. Rosario, McIlraith, D. Gregory, J. Antonio & S. Elias.

Per Derflinger, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Capt. and Mrs Proctor, Mr and Mrs F. O. Leiser, Mrs A. Hocking and child, Major F. C. Samborne Palmer, Messrs. L. M. Buck and Georg G. Buck; from Kobe, Mr and Mrs S. B. Dexter, Miss Alice B. Warren, Messrs. C. Lindbergh and W. S. Springmann; from Nagasaki, Mrs C. Palmer, and Mr Kobayashi; from Shanghai, Mrs J. Rabenhorst, Misses Lagrabe and Nora Klein, Messrs. A. Koehler, H. P. Madar, T. Aoki, F. B. Rowe, John Lawrence and family; from Foochow, Rev. M. D. Stewart, and Miss Stewart.

DEPARTED.

Per Empress of Japan, for Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs Eldridge and 2 children, Misses E. M. Patrick and Robinson, Capt. J. M. Salladay, Major Burton, Major Radcliffe, Father V. Montaner, Messrs. V. F. Deacon, H. M. Benin, H. W. Skinner, A. L. Hancock, A. L. Doffy, Ernest Collina, Geo. Broeg and T. S. Salmbi.

Per Manila, for Australia, &c., Mr and Mrs N. E. Westcott, Mr and Mrs Oxorio, Mrs Stone and maid, Mrs S. Kobayashi, Mrs M. Babenhorst, Mrs Munroe, Mrs Sanobes Bonape, Capt. Bode, Rev. H. Sanger, Messrs. C. L. Hoover, Chas. B. Sprint, H. N. Westcott, J. Ruckanbrod, J. de Las Orasco, Y. Mortera, R. E. Libby, G. Glits, E. Limbrock, Baldomer, E. Wocke, F. Hesse and party.

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